



# Wallington High School *for Girls*

HEIRS OF THE PAST, MAKERS OF THE FUTURE

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Dear Year 13 Students, Parents and Carers

## **Re: Return to face to face learning in school**

I trust that you and your families are keeping well and safe. You will no doubt have listened to the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday regarding the return to school for all year groups from the week beginning 8th March. We are delighted that our students will be returning to school soon, although we are currently in the process of confirming our plans for this, I thought I would write to give you an update on some key points regarding the return to school.

### **Attendance**

Please be aware that attendance at school from the 8th March is mandatory. We do appreciate that some individuals and families may be anxious about returning but I would like to assure you that we are doing everything possible to ensure that the school is safe. We will be returning to the similar operational arrangements that were in place prior to lockdown e.g. year group bubbles, zoning of year groups etc and I will be sending out an updated version of our Covid procedures booklet next week to all parents and carers.

As things currently stand, shielding guidance for the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable remains in place. If your daughter falls under this category they should remain at home and the school will facilitate their learning. Individuals in this category will have received a letter from the NHS or their specialist advising them to remain at home. Government guidelines continue to recommend those living with a Clinically Extremely Vulnerable individual to attend their education setting.

### **Lateral Flow Testing**

Under the new guidance for returning to school, before we can start any face to face learning, we are required to carry out a lateral flow test (LFT) for each student. A negative test is required before a student can return to face-to-face learning. We are then required to test students twice more within 3 to 5 days of each test. Once students have tested 3 times at school they will be provided with home test kits for regular testing.

As a consequence this means that there will be some disruption to the first week back at school (or potentially the end of next week for select year groups), including a phased return for different year

groups over the first week. Please note that Year 11 and Year 13 will take priority. Full details will follow on all testing arrangements shortly.

These LFT tests have a rapid turnaround of 30 minutes and are designed to catch any asymptomatic cases that might pose a risk the reopening of the school. Any positive tests will be required to self-isolate as will close contacts of any positive tests.

Lateral Flow Tests are voluntary but we strongly urge that students participate in the programme of regular rapid testing. Students without consent are still permitted to attend school. However, the more students engage with it, the more effective our system of controls can be.

To consent to testing **please complete the form that can be found [here](#) by Monday 1st March.**

Please be aware that for students aged 16 and over, consent (or not) needs to be provided by the student themselves rather than their parents, but we would encourage you to have a conversation with your daughter. We do need to know if you do not consent as well so please still complete the form. This is to avoid us chasing you in the near future and to ensure that we do not test your daughter.

I will be in contact soon with further details of our return to school.

Yours faithfully

**Mr R.V. Booth**  
**Headteacher**