

25 February 2021

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know, the prime minister announced plans on Monday for the gradual lifting of lockdown restrictions which will begin with the full reopening of schools on Monday 8 March. This is really good news and, like you, I am looking forward to students and staff returning to our schools.

New guidance for the wider opening of schools was published on Monday and Headteachers as well as members of Pathfinder's Operations Team are working through this to ensure our schools continue to have all of the necessary measures in place and can open safely on 8 March.

The preventative measures schools should follow remain largely the same and thanks to the efforts of all staff, parents and students during the autumn term, these have proven to be very effective within our schools. To keep our students, staff and wider communities safe we will continue to have the following measures in place when our schools reopen:

- social distancing at 2 metres wherever possible between students and staff;
- hand washing for 20 seconds using soap and water and more frequently throughout the day;
- staff wearing a face covering when moving around the school outside of the classroom and in areas where social distancing cannot be maintained;
- encouraging the catch it, bin it, kill it approach when coughing and sneezing;
- keeping classrooms and offices well ventilated by opening doors and windows to maintain air flow;
- regularly cleaning high touch areas and surfaces, such as table tops, door handles, railings etc.

In addition to these measures we now have staff Covid-19 testing in place, and although voluntary, there has been a strong uptake by staff in all our schools.

The most effective way to keep our students and staff safe is to prevent anyone with symptoms bringing the virus into our schools. If your child or a member of your household, support bubble or childcare bubble has a new continuous cough, a high temperature or a loss or change to their sense of taste or smell, your child must not attend school and you should arrange a coronavirus test as soon as possible by calling 119 or visiting: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>.

All our schools are currently reviewing their risk assessments, as they do regularly, and members of Pathfinder's Operations Team are visiting schools to provide advice and support where necessary.

If you have any questions about returning to school, please do contact your child's school in the usual way.

I would like to thank you for your continued understanding and support for our schools.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Daly
Chief Executive Officer

Our Partner Schools