



# The Howard School



A Specialist Sports College  
"To Strive and Achieve is to Succeed"

1<sup>st</sup> January 2021

## Important information for all Parent/Carers

Dear Parent/Carers,

I very much hope that you and your family have had an opportunity to enjoy the Christmas break.

### The return of students in January 2021

As you are aware the Government announced on the 30th December, that there will be a change in the return dates for secondary students for January 2021. This is to allow schools to prepare for mass Lateral Flow Testing delivered at school. This will help to identify asymptomatic cases to support the return of students and staff to school safely and reduce transmission rates.

Year 11 and 13 students return to school on the 11th January 2021. All other year groups return to school on the 18th January 2021. In the week beginning the 4th January 2021 the school will:

- Set up our school testing programme;
- Offer High Quality Remote Education for exam groups and all other year groups from the 5th January 2021.
- Ensure that any vocational exams scheduled for the first weeks of January go ahead

From Tuesday 5th January, year groups will be taught remotely following their normal school timetable on Google Classroom. For whole year groups who are not due to be in school from Tuesday 5th January, until Friday 15th January, all lessons will either be taught live or there will be pre-recorded material available to support students.

Teachers will be available for the first 30 minutes of every lesson to support those students who have questions or need support **unless the staff are unwell**. In order to ensure this runs efficiently and effectively, please ensure your child is ready to start the school day at their usual start time.

Please contact Mrs Parish at [parishj@thehowardschool.co.uk](mailto:parishj@thehowardschool.co.uk) if your child is unable to access Google Classroom via an electronic device (a laptop/ computer/ Ipad/ mobile phone). We have some laptops provided by the DFE and a limited supply of internet dongles which provide free Wi-Fi.

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals and you require a food parcel, please contact [office@thehowardschool.co.uk](mailto:office@thehowardschool.co.uk). If you are currently self-isolating and therefore unable to collect the food parcel, please let [office@thehowardschool.co.uk](mailto:office@thehowardschool.co.uk) know and we will make arrangements to deliver the food parcel to your address.

From the 5th January until the 8th January, the school will continue to provide the children of critical workers and vulnerable students, the option of being in school. We will place students in a computer room and they will be supervised to do the same High Quality Remote Learning that students are doing at home. This group will become several bubbles and students will only be with the same students daily. If your child requires this

[www.thehowardschool.co.uk](http://www.thehowardschool.co.uk)



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provision and is eligible for it, please contact the relevant Head of Year, so we can make arrangements for this.

Head of Year 7 - Mr Milton	<a href="mailto:miltonn@thehowardschool.co.uk">miltonn@thehowardschool.co.uk</a>
Head of Year 8 - Mr Murphy	<a href="mailto:murphyj@thehowardschool.co.uk">murphyj@thehowardschool.co.uk</a>
Head of Year 9 - Mr Longe	<a href="mailto:longen@thehowardschool.co.uk">longen@thehowardschool.co.uk</a>
Head of Year 10 - Ms Jaiyeoba	<a href="mailto:jaiyeobean@thehowardschool.co.uk">jaiyeobean@thehowardschool.co.uk</a>
Head of Year 11 - Ms Ali	<a href="mailto:alim@thehowardschool.co.uk">alim@thehowardschool.co.uk</a>
Head of Sixth Form- Mr Loftus	<a href="mailto:loftuss@thehowardschool.co.uk">loftuss@thehowardschool.co.uk</a>

In addition to this, Year 7-9 students have their Knowledge Organisers for retrieval practice & revision.

Years 10-13 have additional learning platforms like Seneca learning or Mathswatch and teachers will make this provision clear to students via their Google Classroom stream. The school website also has Subject Reading Lists available.

CDW time is not taught, just timetabled subject lessons.

The Year 10 literature books are available via Google Classroom and can be accessed via phones as a form of digital device.

The canteen will close except to provide Free School Meals from Tuesday 5th January - Friday 8th January. Any student on site who does not have Free School Meals, will need to bring their own refreshments with them.

**All students will need to have a face covering with them on their return to school in January. Any students without a face covering will be sent home to get one, unless they are exempt. If there is any financial hardship that stops students having a face covering, please notify the relevant Head of Year and we will provide the student with a cotton mask.**

Please note that if your child becomes unwell or develops the symptoms associated with Covid-19, please do not send them into school.

### **Rapid, asymptomatic testing**

We are currently in the process of setting up our school 'Lateral Flow Testing' process and we will forward further information when it is completed, and we can begin testing. Mr Johal, Deputy Headteacher is the school lead on this for the school.

The Local authority is offering repeat testing to all students in Year 11 and 13 and secondary school staff. There are 5 Medway testing centres, and the current plan is that from Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th January, year 11 and 13 students can access these sites. This will mean that these two-year groups can have two tests, before returning to school on the 11th January. If for any reason this provision is withdrawn, we will make families aware of this.

People who have tested COVID positive in the last 90 days should not attend an asymptomatic test, as this may result in a false positive.

Students and staff will be able to book a test slot online directly. There are not sufficient slots for other members of the student's family, in these year groups - families will be able to access the sites and book slots the following week through core community testing sites.

**To support our planning if you would like your child to have the test in school, we require consent from parents, who wish their child to take a test, asap but by Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. The school will be offering Lateral Flow Testing from Monday 11th January.**

Please look at the following links and attached documents which provide information from the Department For Education about 'Lateral Flow Device Testing':

1. Testing launch information  
<https://twitter.com/educationgovuk/status/1338819876798992387?s=20>
2. Explainer video on lateral flow testing here:  
<https://twitter.com/10DowningStreet/status/1328387524490911745?s=20>
3. Attached Information regarding How the 'Lateral Flow Test' could be used if your child has close contact with someone who has tested positive at school. (Taken from the Covid-19 National Testing Programme: Schools & Colleges handbook)
4. Attached Information Leaflet about testing.

To summarise the main points from the guidance and how we intend to operate if a student tests positive:

The lateral flow device test consists of two tests which have to be taken several days apart.

- If a student tests positive during Lateral Flow Testing our pastoral support team will contact you and the student will either be sent home or we will request that he/she is collected from school.
- The student is then expected to follow the national guidance and order a PCR test or have one done outside of school. If the school has the relevant PCR tests, then the student will be given a PCR test to take home and self-isolate until the test result is known. If the PCR test result is negative, then the student can return to school. If the PCR result is positive, then the student should self-isolate for 10 days from when the test result is known (current public health guidance).
- If a student has had close contact with someone in school who has tested positive either via in school Lateral Flow Device Testing or from external testing, then our pastoral support team will contact you and we will either send the student home or request that he/she is collected from school. If you wish your child to return to school the following day they will need to take a 'lateral Flow Test' and test negative every day for 7 days to return to the classroom for each day after their test, or they can self-isolate for 10 days and will return to school on the 11<sup>th</sup> day without further testing.

Participation in taking a test is voluntary and if you do not consent to your child taking the test, they will still be able to attend school unless they develop symptoms.

**If you do wish for your child to take the test, please read the attached 'Covid-19 Testing Privacy Statement' and complete the consent form and email it back to the school. Completed forms should be returned to [office@thehowardschool.co.uk](mailto:office@thehowardschool.co.uk)**

- For pupils and students younger than 16 years - this form must be completed by the parent or legal guardian. Please complete one consent form for each child you wish to participate in testing.
- Pupils and students over 16 who are able to provide informed consent - can complete this form themselves, having discussed participation with their parent / guardian if under 18.

My warmest best wishes to you all.

A handwritten signature in grey ink that reads "C. Reid". A small blue dot is positioned above the first letter "C".

Ms C Reid  
**Executive Headteacher**