

2nd March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Whole School Update

Following the Government announcement on the 22nd February we are delighted to outline how we will be phasing the students into school from 8th March; we will be testing those students who have consent on three separate occasions (each test will be conducted three to five days apart) whilst delivering a full curriculum on site and online.

Please note that vulnerable children and children of critical workers can continue to attend school throughout the arrangements below.

The specific plans for your child's year group are below and this is followed by general information which is applicable to all year groups:

Year 11 return and testing arrangements

Monday 8 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Year 11 students return to school – students will spend Period 1 in their form rooms (please see below for a reminder of these) completing Welcome back activities as well as receiving a reminder of the 'bubble' arrangements which are in place to ensure that students can safely return to school. From Period 2 onwards they will return to normal timetable Covid testing over the course of the day for those who have consent and who have not regularly been attending school prior to 8th March
Tuesday 9 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Year 11 students in school – normal timetable
Wednesday 10 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Year 11 students in school – normal timetable Covid testing over the course of the day for those who were regularly in school prior to 8th March under the vulnerable and critical worker criteria
Thursday 11 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Year 11 students in school – normal timetable Covid testing over the course of the day for those who have consent and who have not regularly been attending school prior to 8th March
Friday 12 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Year 11 students working remotely and following their normal timetable via Teams
Monday 15 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Year 11 students in school – normal timetable
Tuesday 16 th March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Year 11 students in school – normal timetable Covid testing over the course of the day for any student in the year group who has consent and has not yet completed three 'in school' tests

From Wednesday 17th March all students are in school and all 'in school' testing has been completed. Students who have completed three tests will be provided with home testing kits to use twice a week along with additional information about how to use the kits.



Year 11 form rooms

- The start of the school day is **8.45** a.m.
- When students come into school they enter by the 'normal' Student Entrance and then walk along the glass corridor to their form room for registration:

Form	Room	Tutor
Coverdale	Room 12	Mrs Welch
Rosedale	Room 14	Mr Douglas
Swaledale	Room 15	Dr Wilson
Teesdale	Room 16	Mrs Millward
Weardale	Room 17	Mrs Jones

Mentoring and transition support

All Year 11 students will be meeting with their mentors on their return to school to discuss any concerns which they may have following the partial closure.

Mrs Hudson, our independent Careers advisor and Careers Lead, has continued to support all students with their transition to their post-16 destinations whilst we have been partially closed and will continue to do so when we return. If you or your child needs any additional support with this then please contact her on phn@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk

Summer Exam arrangements

As we outlined to you in the 'We are Hurworth' newsletter on 26th February Ofqual released their consultation response on the plans for the summer exams on 25th February. Whilst this information provided the 'headline' decisions that have been made on awarding this year, **there are technical aspects of the approach that will need to be shaped by Ofqual and the exam boards.**

To that end, Ofqual has simultaneously launched a further consultation on the technical framework for awarding. **The consultation will be open for two weeks and closes at 11:45pm on March 11th 2021.** Following this, further guidance will be released to schools and we will share the details of this with you as soon as we have it.

General information for all year groups

Updated Government Guidance

The government information for parents and carers was last updated on 24th February and the link to the latest guidance is included below for your information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak/what-parents-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-covid-19>



When students return to school we will be continuing the 'bubble' arrangements which we have had in operation since September and both staff and students will continue to follow all hygiene procedures and protocols in line with government guidance.



Wearing Face Coverings in School

Wearing face coverings is now **recommended** for all staff and pupils throughout the day including lessons and in corridors and general communal areas which includes offices, staffrooms and catering areas (where a two-metre distance cannot be achieved). This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.

Children and young people must:

- clean their hands before and after wearing their face covering
- place any temporary face coverings they may have been wearing in a covered bin
- place reusable face coverings in a plastic bag that they can take home with them or store the face covering in when they are not being used

Please note that if a child or member of staff has a medical condition that makes wearing a face covering difficult, they will be exempt from wearing a face covering. This applies to those who:

- cannot put on, wear or remove a face covering because of a physical or mental illness or impairment or disability
- speak to or provide assistance to someone who relies on lip reading, clear sound or facial expression to communicate

The same exemptions will apply in education settings, and we would expect teachers and other staff to be sensitive to those needs. If your child has a condition which you believe makes them exempt from wearing a face covering of which we are not already aware then you need to contact us prior to your child's return to school.

Building work

Following a successful Condition Improvement Fund bid building work to replace several sections of the school roof began on Friday 26th February. Whilst scaffolding currently covers a large parts of the building, this will not affect the day to day operations of the school and safe routes through all of the affected sections have been put in place.



School Transport

School transport will be available to all students who are accessing school from Monday 8th March and all usual routes and timings will be in operation.

If you have any questions about transport then please contact Mrs Preston on the school number or via lpn@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk

Department for Education laptops and Remote Education

Several students loaned laptops and other pieces of equipment when we partially closed. If this applies to your child then we will expect the equipment to be returned to school once they return.

Should any students test positive for Covid or need to self-isolate due to a close contact testing positive then we will provide Remote Education for students during this period via Teams.

School Uniform and Equipment

All students will be expected to return to school in full uniform and to be fully equipped when they return to school. Under normal circumstances we would be in Winter uniform of white shirt, tie, jumper, black trousers and plain black shoes/Chelsea boots until Easter after which time we would switch to Summer uniform of maroon polo shirt and optional school jumper.

We are very conscious however that these are not 'normal' circumstances and therefore students in Year 11 will be able to choose whether they wear Winter **or** Summer uniform until they leave the school to ensure that parents/carers do not have to purchase specific uniform which would only be needed for a few weeks.

If you do wish to purchase any items of branded uniform this can be obtained from <https://elizabethsembroidery.morephotos.net/collections> and using the password Hurworth. Please use the link to book appointments or order online. If you are experiencing difficulties sourcing other items of uniform not available from Elizabeth's Embroidery, please let us know and we will try to help.

For individual and very frequently used equipment, it is recommended that students have their own items that are not shared, therefore we will expect all students to have pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and calculator with them on a daily basis. Students will be expected to bring a bag with them and this should be large enough to carry an A4 file in them. Students in Years 7-9 should also have an appropriate reading book with them.

Medical conditions

If your child has a condition which requires them to take regular prescribed medication, then they will be able to access this via the Main Office at the appropriate times. If your child has Asthma they must carry their inhaler with them. If your child has an Epi-pen they must also have their Epi-pen with them at all times.



Canteen facilities

There will be a limited hot and cold food menu on offer at break time and lunch time. If your child brings a packed lunch to school, please send their lunch in a bag that can be disposed of after eating.

Water

There will be very limited access to the water coolers in school, therefore all students should bring their own full water bottles with them – this should be of a size sufficient for their needs for the day. Fizzy or energy drinks are not permitted.

Attendance

All students are expected to return to school and the normal school attendance procedures will be in place. If your child is unwell you must telephone the office by 9.00 am with a reason for absence. Parents/carers should maintain daily contact with school for the period of absence unless advised otherwise. If there is no contact from parents/carers to advise of the reason for absence (in line with our school attendance and safeguarding policies), school will undertake first day calling and then may conduct a socially distanced home visit.

If you have been advised that your child will be unable to attend due to shielding, self-isolating or if your child or a member of their household has a positive test, then please contact the school.

Mobile phones

If your child brings their mobile phone to school, their phone will be placed in a plastic bag in their form room and will then be collected for safe storage and then returned to them at the end of the school day.

Behaviour Expectations

The behaviour expectations of the school remain unchanged and we will expect all students to uphold these on their return.

If you have any concerns about your child before we return to school, then please contact the school office between 8.30 am - 4.00 pm. You can also contact the school via email enquiries@hurworthschool.org.uk

Routines

Returning to school in is always hard for students, getting used to early mornings, structure and routine can be challenging for those who have followed a different routine whilst we have been partially closed. We welcome your support in ensuring that your child develops a routine ahead of their return. Students need to get back into their usual sleep patterns, get into the habit of packing their bags the night before, making sure they have all of their equipment (including bus passes where applicable) and getting their uniform ready so that they are in less of a rush on the morning. Whilst delays caused by school or public transport are beyond



the students control, we will expect them to be punctual on a morning rather than being delayed by a lack of organisation.

Swift and School Specific Information

Please note that the following link contains a wealth of COVID related information and all school letters:

[COVID-19 | Swift Academies](#)

Welfare support

Whilst the school has been partially closed we have continued to provide welfare support for all students. If your child is currently engaged with external agencies then access to these will continue in addition to the support which is provided 'in house'.

Hurworth School frequently updates the Mental Health, Online Safety and Safeguarding blogs on our school website to help to give support and keep parents updated with information for Mental Health, Online Safety and Safeguarding concerns. This can be found on the Hurworth School home page within the blogs tab. To help to continue and build on these skills it would be useful for you to have discussions and continue to work on these skills at home. Please see the links below to useful websites that can help you with support and information on young people's Mental health:

www.annafreud.org
www.youngminds.org.uk
www.childline.org.uk
www.kooth.com

We understand that these are uncertain, difficult and stressful times, however we will do our best to support you and your child through this process and we look forward to seeing the students back in school very soon.

Yours sincerely



Miss N. Peaker
Head of School

