



Newfield School
Lees Hall Road
Sheffield
S8 9JP

0114 255 7331 📞

enquiries@newfield.sheffield.sch.uk ✉️

www.newfield.sheffield.sch.uk 🌐

Headteacher: Mrs Emma Anderson

Chair of Governors: Mr Steve Chew

Our ref: CJ/RCY

24 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the Government's announcement on Monday 22 February 2021 we write this letter to you with a real sense of hope and optimism that better times lie ahead but it is vital that we continue our 'Allied Effort' to follow the guidance protect the NHS and ultimately save lives. Our approach will always follow the guidance to ensure we place our community's safety at the forefront of any decision making.

This will be our only planned letter this week and we will write to you early next week with full details of our wider re-opening plan. We are extremely excited that we will soon be able to have all our children back in school to focus on well-being, the mental health of our students and delivering our knowledge-rich curriculum.

Wider School Re-Opening Plans

As a school we need some time to study the guidance and create a plan for the wider re-opening of school from week commencing Monday 8 March 2021. This return will be staggered to enable testing to take place before students come back on site. Full details of our plans, including logistics for testing, will be shared in a letter early next week.

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Testing Consent Data Collection

Following the Government announcement students who have consented will be tested as part of our re-opening plans. The option to take a lateral flow test will significantly enhance the safety of everyone in our community and we are keen that all our students take up this offer so we can keep each other and our families safe. If you have not already done so can you please complete the testing consent form and send the paper copy back to school if your son/daughter is accessing our in-school provision or complete the Consent Form in the Forms section of Edulink. If you do not want your son/daughter to take part in school testing you do not need to complete the form.

Free School Meals

Due to the week commencing 8 March 2021 involving a staggered return for our students we will be offering a Free School Meal Voucher for this week. Families that claim Free School Meals are eligible for a food voucher to help support any time spent at home during the staggered return to school. Mercia Learning Trust will be issuing the Free School Meal Vouchers for the week commencing 8 March 2021. If you need any assistance with these vouchers please contact freeschoolmeals@merciatrust.co.uk.

Year 11 Examinations and Assessment Week

You will be rightly wanting to know what your child's education will involve between their return to school and when they leave at the end of this academic year. The Ofqual examination consultation closed on Friday 29 January 2021 and the expectations for schools with regards to providing teacher assessment of students' grades are due to be announced later this week. We will write to you as soon as we know the full details of what Year 11 students will be required to do. We will however, continue to prioritise powerful knowledge that supports their longer term prospects and personal development.

We do, however, want our Year 11 students to know that we're not intending to run any internal assessments until after the Easter holiday and that our priority upon return to face-to-face learning is ensuring students acquire powerful knowledge, are able to be successful in any assessments that are required following the Ofqual consultation and they are able to move onto the next stage of their education.

Over the next few weeks our focus will be on making sure your child settles back into effective routines in school and receives high quality lessons. We understand that the uncertainty may have caused angst but please know that we are here to support students to ensure they achieve their best so that they have opportunity and choice in their later lives.

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In the meantime, many thanks for all your support with your child's remote learning - it is much appreciated. Every lesson counts and your child's hard work and resilience through this second period of partial school closure will stand them in good stead for their return to school.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "C. Jenkinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr C Jenkinson
Co-Headteacher

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Dawson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr S Dawson
Co-Headteacher