



5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Return to School

We are looking forward to seeing our students back in school next week and I am writing to you with some final information relating to their return.

Many thanks to everybody who has logged in to record their permission for their son or daughter to undergo the lateral flow testing in school in the coming weeks. If you have not yet done so, can you please follow the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=5o9fCMiVwU2eytVVu49p37GILwQFFDRCiCTOF6CKLfiUMDUyTEtOSUdTQU9QNDBFQzZDSEdWNDFYMS4u>

The students will return at a designated time, either within their form group or, in the case of Years 10 and 11, their assigned teaching group. Please follow the link below to see a timetable for next week's testing programme:

<https://jorichardson.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/COVID-Testing-Timetable.pdf>

The Government have made it clear that one of the major changes on our return to school is that students must wear masks in lessons. On this basis, unless your son or daughter is exempt for medical reasons, they will need to wear a mask in the majority of their lessons. There will, however, be a few exceptions to this rule in subjects which involve some physical exertion such as PE and dance. Both the testing programme and the new rules around masks in lessons form a fundamental part of our plan to protect the young people and staff at JRCS from both being infected and also from passing on the virus. We all have a role to play in this and it is important that everyone in the JRCS community takes their responsibilities seriously in supporting themselves, their families and their peers.

Below you will find a statement from Matthew Cole, LBBB Director of Public Health, which gives a clear message to everyone involved in our return to school on Monday. Please share this message with your son or daughter prior to their return next week.

I am strongly recommending the use of 3-layer face masks in secondary schools because we want to do everything we can to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19 in the school. The wearing of face masks provides an additional measure to help reduce transmission in indoor communal areas and classrooms where social distancing cannot be safely managed. I will be making sure that my own son wears his mask when he is in his school building.

With twice-a-week testing of students and staff as well, we have all those measures in place – hand hygiene, the cleaning of surfaces, the ventilation, staggered breaks - all those measures designed to minimise the risk of infection and transmission within the school.

As previously advised, the staggered return for next week is outlined below and I would remind you that students will need to attend in full school uniform both for their test and on their allocated return date.

Monday 8th March **Year 11 (test in the morning and remain in school all day)**
Year 10 (test in the afternoon and return to school on Tuesday 9/3/21)
Year 12 and 13 (already tested and remain in school all day)

Tuesday 9th March **Year 7 (test in the morning and remain in school all day)**

Wednesday 10th March **Year 8 (test in the morning and remain in school all day)**

Thursday 11th March **Year 9 (test in the morning and remain in school all day)**

Many thanks and stay safe.

Yours faithfully



G Smith
Headteacher