



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you enjoyed the half-term break.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on 22 February, we are delighted that pupils will be returning to the Moorside Learning Campus on a full-time basis from week beginning Monday 8 March 2021. I urge you all to take a few moments to read in detail the information over the following pages and also speak to your child about it. My colleagues are planning in detail and will be delivering assemblies to students next week to support the preparation for our return, this will include a virtual tour of our one-way system and the importance of mask wearing.

You will see within the information later in this letter that we will be operating a phased return to accommodate testing for Covid-19. I respect this decision may not be welcomed by some families but I want to assure you that this is to ensure we can operate our testing station in a calm, controlled and very importantly a safe manner. From the consent forms we have received so far we are likely to be testing around 92% of our students and staff which as I am sure you can imagine is an operational challenge. Despite the challenge we are delighted with the uptake and support from parents and carers with this work.

Given the wide nature of the letter I have chosen to title and box the letter into different sections. Again, I respect this isn't the normal way but hopefully it provides clarity. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

Following the first lockdown, which was within the first few weeks of my employment as Headteacher and then the one we are ending now I wanted to publicly praise our staff and students. As a team we have raised the bar with our expectations second time around, we have invested in new technology, with laptops for all teaching staff, distributed high numbers of laptops for students and ultimately tried our very best to deliver a school day in line with the norm. Staff and students for this, I sincerely thank you.

We move forward with our new core purpose and I really believe if we continue to work together we will ensure that Moorside High School is a truly fantastic school and one which we can all be proud of. We recognise we still have lots of work to do!

Core Purpose

To ensure every student leaves us ready for their next successful chapter, with students attending university or starting a fulfilling career.

We enrich lives and inspire ambitions to ensure students thrive in the world around us.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C R Davis', written in a cursive style.

Mr C R Davis



General principles

The government guidance states that the new variant of Coronavirus (Covid-19) is more transmissible however, PHE advice remains that the new way to control this virus is with the systems of controls, even with the current new variants.

The new guidance includes a set of twelve measures which make up the 'system of controls' which schools need to follow.

We MUST Always

- 1) minimise contact with individuals who are required to self-isolate by ensuring they do not attend school
- 2) ensure face coverings are used
- 3) ensure everyone is advised to clean hands thoroughly more often than usual
- 4) ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- 5) maintain enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often, using standard products such as detergents
- 6) consider how to minimise contact across the site and maintain social distancing wherever possible
- 7) keep occupied spaces well ventilated

In Specific circumstances

- 8) ensure individuals wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE)
- 9) promote and engage in asymptomatic testing

Response to any infection

- 10) promote and engage with the NHS Test and Trace process
- 11) manage and report confirmed cases
- 12) contain any outbreak by following local health protection team advice

The guidance makes clear that numbers 1 to 7 must be in place in all schools, all the time and in many ways, these are the most important things we can do to help keep one another safe.

Number 6 is perhaps the most challenging when balanced against providing a good quality of education. In doing this, we will be applying the following principles wherever we possibly can:

- wash hands regularly and practise good respiratory hygiene
- be prepared to help keep surfaces clean
- keep students at least 2m away from adults where possible (remember: adults are much more likely to suffer from the effects of Covid -19 than students)
- students should stay at least 1m metre away from one another wherever that is possible
- masks are to be worn at all times unless eating, drinking or in lessons such as PE
- minimise mixing between year groups by maintaining year group 'bubbles' for example different zones for break and lunchtimes. Please note students will cross in the corridors but we will be introducing a new one-way system to minimise this. Unfortunately, this will result in longer lesson transition times



- remembering that, just because we can't do something all the time, that does not mean we don't do it when we can. For example, it won't be possible to stay 1m away from other students in most classrooms, but that does not mean we shouldn't do it in classrooms where we can or at break/lunchtime

If we all act as socially responsible citizens, then we can make a huge difference to the chances of anyone catching the coronavirus – but this means making sure we stay alert and keep thinking of other people as well as ourselves.

The Staggered Return of Students

As you will know the government has asked all schools to provide the opportunity for students to be tested 3 times during the first 2 weeks, which will then be followed by home testing. As tests need to be 3-5 days apart, below we have detailed our plan which accommodates this in a safe and controlled way. **Please note** for round one testing there is a testing start time and then a year group official start time which is when lessons start. Only those students being tested should arrive before the year groups official start time.

Families of Year 11 you will see we have spread the testing and the official start time over two days. We are trying here to maximise the teaching and learning from 8th March 2021 given the heightened importance for your studies. Friday will be testing only with lessons starting on Monday 8th March.

Date	Year Group	Testing Time (Students being tested only)	Year Group Official start time (All students)	Vulnerable and Key Work
Friday 5 th March	Year 11	09.00-12.00 (Testing only)	Monday 8 th March 08.30	Provision as normal
Monday 8 th March	Year 10	08.30-10.30	10.50	
Tuesday 9 th March	Year 7	08.30-10.50 *see below	10.50	
Wednesday 10 th March	Year 8 Year 9	08.30-10.50 11.30-14.00	10.50 14.00	

Students being tested should attend school via the PE entrance and students will be sent a more specific timeslot within the testing allocated time.

Please note

Monday 8th March Year 7,8, & 9 will continue with the remote learning.

Year 7 will be returning on Tuesday 9th March, Year 8 and 9 will continue with remote learning.

Due to us starting the testing before 8th March all students will be back in school from Wednesday 10th March following a staggered time.



For the two follow up tests students will be taken out from lessons. From the completion of the 3rd school-based test, tests will then be conducted from home on a Monday and Thursday where possible, doing this will allow for a reduction in the track and trace systems.

School Attendance

Attendance at school is mandatory for all pupils from 8th March (excluding our phased returned)

The usual rules on school attendance apply, including

- parents' duty to secure their child's regular attendance at school (where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age)
- the ability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices, in line with local authorities' codes of conduct at Moorside High School we will be working hard to again promote our rewards policy and encourage this to support parents and carers in having very good attendance.

Self-Isolation and Shielding

We understand that a small number of pupils will still be unable to attend in line with public health advice to self-isolate because they:

- have symptoms or had a positive test result
- live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive and are a household contact
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19)

If your child has been confirmed as clinically extremely vulnerable the current advice is for these students to stay at home until further notice and we will provide remote education. If this is the case for your child please can you email a copy of the shielding letter to covidresults@moorsidehigh.com or [Click Here](#)

Masks

If you feel that medically your child cannot wear a mask we request that you [Click here](#) to submit information. When students return it is expected that students and staff wear a mask at all times.



Timetable

The timetable has some very small changes from earlier in the academic year; please see the diagram below.

Arrival		08.30-09.30	09.35- 10.50			10.50-11.50	11.55 -12.55	12.55-13.55		13.55-14.55
		Period 1 60 minutes	Period 2 - incl. 15minutes break 75 minutes			Period 3 60 minutes	Period 4 60 minutes	Lunch 12.55-13.25. 13.25-13.55		Period 5 60 minutes
8.30am	Year 7	8.30am Lesson 60mins	Lesson 30mins	Break 15mins 10.05am Sports Hall	Lesson 30mins	Lesson 60 mins	Lesson 60 mins	Lunch 30mins Sports Hall	Form Tutor Time	Lesson 60 mins
8.30am	Year 8	8.30am Lesson 60mins	Lesson 30mins	Break 15mins 10.05am In front of the MUGA	Lesson 30mins	Lesson 60 mins	Lesson 60 mins	Lunch 30mins 3G Pitch	Form Tutor Time	Lesson 60 mins
8.25am	Year 9	8.25am Lesson 65mins	Lesson 60mins		Break 15mins 10.35am Outside Pupil Entrance	Lesson 60 mins	Lesson 60 mins	Form Tutor Time	Lunch 30mins MUGA	Lesson 60 mins
8.30am	Year 10	8.30am Lesson 60mins	Lesson 30mins	Break 15mins 10.05am Outside Pupil Entrance	Lesson 30mins	Lesson 60 mins	Lesson 60 mins	Lunch 30mins MUGA	Form Tutor Time	Lesson 60 mins
8.25am	Year 11	8.25am Lesson 65mins	Lesson 60mins		Break 15mins 10.35am In front of the MUGA	Lesson 60 mins	Lesson 60 mins	Form Tutor Time	Lunch 30mins 3G Pitch	Lesson 60 mins

Each morning, students will need to check their timetable to ensure they are entering the building via the one way system.

The reasons for these changes are:

- staggering lunchtime makes it much easier to maintain year group bubbles, as well as making sure that all year groups have the opportunity to buy food from the restaurant in a 'grab and go' style.
- staggered start by 5 minutes allows for easy movement and less lesson congestion meaning less contact time between bubbles
- the staggered exit isn't required as students will exit the building following the one-way system, which in turn will slightly stagger the timings
- through operating a one-way system students contact with others from differing year groups will be reduced

No student to be in the building prior to their start time (Unless approved by a member of SLT)

Food and Drink provision:

Food and drink will not be sold from the school restaurant before school or at break time, this will be available at lunchtime. We do strongly advise children to bring food and drink from home, please ensure this is suitable such as bottled water. The school behaviour policy will be in place and therefore items such as fizzy drinks are not allowed in school. Students can bring a school bag but the contents should be kept to a minimum.



Year 11: Awarding qualifications in summer 2021

The DfE announced on Thursday 25th February that students will receive grades awarded and determined by their teachers and they will only be assessed on what they have been taught. Teachers will be able to draw on a range of evidence when determining grades, including the optional use of questions provided by exam boards, as well as mock exams, coursework, or other work completed as part of a student's course, such as essays or in-class tests. Very importantly no algorithm will be used.

As a school we will ensure we set up a very rigorous process for teachers and submit grades to the exam boards by the national deadline of 18th June 2021. Obviously given this date we have a significant amount of teaching and learning time and it is very important this is maximised at every opportunity. I want to be very clear that everything is now of heightened importance, attendance, behaviour and conduct, depth and quality of work and also students demonstrating going above and beyond in their studies.

Exam results day for students has been announced as 12th August 2021.

To support teachers in making their judgements, exam boards will provide detailed guidance before the end of the spring term and it is important for us not to speculate any further at this time. We will write to you again with more details on the evidence we will be collecting in each subject once we have had time to formalise our approach.

We appreciate this will be a very stressful time for students, yourselves and also the staff. Please do contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Parent Pay:

The school system for in school 'top up' for break/lunch money will no longer be in operation. All parents/carers must use the online ParentPay system, all details have been sent out previously. If you require this to be resent please call the school or email info@moorsidehigh.com

Uniform:

- full uniform to be worn at all other times and the schools behaviour and rewards policy will be in place to support staff and students
- students need to ensure they have full equipment for learning which as a minimum must include a pen, pencil, ruler, rubber, sharpener and the school planner. Any families who need support here are encouraged to call the Head of Year
- please note a mask does now form part of our school uniform as directed by the government. We will be using our behaviour and rewards policy to help ensure we have full adherence to this change where possible

Educational Visits and Extended Curricular:

There will be limited extracurricular clubs but **NO** off-site visits for the foreseeable future. Future information will be shared at a later date.



MOORSIDE HIGH

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

I know some families are keen for overseas educational visits but with the ongoing travel restrictions it is important for me to be very clear, as a school we will not be exploring these type of trips during this academic year. Please know I strongly believe students get so much from these types of trips and we are hopeful to be back next year with an amazing offer.