



Sir William Romney's School

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Headteacher: Jonathan Bell

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the government's announcement that all students will return to school from Monday 8th March, I am absolutely delighted to confirm arrangements about welcoming students back to SWR.

Students, parents and staff have all worked tremendously hard throughout this lockdown period. I am very confident that many students have continued to make good progress through our live and directed lessons. However, I am also painfully aware that this is no substitute for students attending school, enjoying lessons, socialising with friends and participating in extra-curricular activities.

Therefore, it is incredibly important that parents, carers and staff do not talk about 'catch-up' or emphasise what has been missed. While we continue to ensure that students' skills and knowledge across the curriculum continue to develop and progress, our priority will be to provide students with a positive and welcoming experience of school. This means that students will have opportunities to experience sports, creative and many other extra-curricular activities that enhance their experiences of school.

Lessons and Curriculum

I am extremely pleased that the government's guidance clearly states that all students must receive a full and balanced curriculum. Therefore, all year groups will attend lessons in specialist areas and classrooms. I am certain that our Year 7 students will be excited to be attending lessons in Science laboratories, Technology and Music classrooms for the first time at SWR.

Please note that students will still be allowed to wear full PE kit on days when they have a timetabled PE lesson. Students will be expected to wear full school uniform at all other times.

Protective Measures and Risk Assessment

Our risk assessment is currently being reviewed and will be shared on our website before Monday 8th March. To deliver a full and broad curriculum to all students, our protective measures will continue to be incredibly robust.

As advised by government, students and staff will be expected to wear face masks when inside school buildings. This currently includes during lessons in all classrooms. As there will be increased movement around the school, it is critical that as many people as possible adhere to this guidance to ensure that students and staff are safe. Please be assured that the wearing of face masks will be reviewed at the end of this term. Students who are exempt from wearing face masks will not be required to follow this aspect of the risk assessment.

Staff will continue to maintain 2m distancing in classrooms and in school buildings. Students' continued support in observing this rule is greatly appreciated.

The school will continue to operate a one-way system in every building and students will be expected to line up outside buildings before every lesson. Teachers will meet students and supervise their entry into classrooms. This ensures that corridors remain calm and do not become too busy.



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While there will be a schedule of deep cleaning across the school site, students will be asked to also clean their desk space at the start of every lesson. Again, this protective measure is carried over from when students were in school at the start of this academic year.

Hand sanitising will remain a clear expectation. Students and staff will sanitise upon entry to every building and classroom.

Students will also be expected to bring in the correct equipment for each lesson as the risk assessment restricts what teachers can provide during lessons. Similarly, please be advised that students will not have access to lockers and will need to carry exercise books and equipment in their bags throughout the day.

Lateral Flow Testing

Parents will receive details about how they can provide consent for their child to take a lateral flow test in school. This is entirely optional but is a useful tool that allows schools to identify students and staff who may be asymptomatic. Following consent, students will receive three tests in school which must be separated by three to five days. Testing will be completed at home for students after their third school-based test.

Government guidance permits schools to phase the return of students from 8th March to ensure that testing is completed before students return to classes. Therefore, year groups will return to school on the following dates:

- Monday 8th March: Year 11
- Tuesday 9th March: Year 10
- Wednesday 10th March: Year 7
- Thursday 11th March: Year 8
- Friday 12th March: Year 9

Students will continue to attend live and directed lessons until their confirmed start date.

Break and Lunchtimes

To minimise the contact of students across the school day, the school will continue to operate split break and lunchtimes.

Year 7 and 8 students' breaktime will be from 10:00am until 10:20am and their lunchtime from 12:20pm until 1:05pm.

All other students' breaktime will be from 11:00am until 11:20am and their lunchtime from 1:20pm until 2:05pm.

All students will be able to purchase hot and cold food from the canteen. Students in Key Stage 4 will no longer use the temporary canteen that was located in the Main Hall.

Please be advised that due to the risk of transmission at water fountains, students are advised to bring sufficient water to drink throughout the day.

GCSE and BTEC Grading

I anticipate that OFQUAL will confirm how Year 11 students will be awarded their GCSE and BTEC grades today. It appears likely that schools will be required to submit grades without the added confusion of algorithms calculating different grades. Therefore, our priority must be to assess Year 11 students as a matter of urgency. Year 11 students will sit internal mock examinations weeks commencing 22nd and 29th March.





The timetable will be confirmed in due course and will be very similar to the timetable that was confirmed for January mock examinations. Teachers will again remind students of the study units and topics that each exam paper will cover. Furthermore, teachers will start to focus on revision and preparation for mock examinations in forthcoming live and face-to-face lessons.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure Year 11 students that they will be given every opportunity to shine and perform well in these mock examinations. I strongly believe that this is our responsibility as a school to students. Final grades will not simply be derived from mock exam results. Students will have further opportunities after the Easter holidays to evidence their knowledge, skills and understanding in classroom assessments. All centre-assessed grades will be subject to internal moderation within school but also in collaboration with other schools across the Athelstan Trust.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Provision

Our key worker and vulnerable provision will continue until Thursday 4th March. Students will then be expected to return to school with their year group on the date stipulated.

INSET Day – Friday 5th March

I decided at the start of this academic year to restrict the number of INSET days between September and December. I have decided that one of our five INSET days will take place on Friday 5th March. This means that there will be no directed or live lessons scheduled on this day. Key worker and vulnerable provision will not be available on this day either.

Extra-Curricular

I was delighted to read the government guidance that strongly encourages schools to offer extra-curricular opportunities for students. Staff across the school believe that extra-curricular activities are a vital part of supporting students and encouraging positive mental health and physical activity. A full programme of extra-curricular sport, creative groups and enrichment activities will be offered to students shortly after their return. I know that staff across the school are excited about being able to offer these opportunities to our students.

Thank You

As I have mentioned many times, I am incredibly proud to be the Headteacher of SWR. Our school community has worked together throughout these challenging times. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the staff at school who have worked tirelessly to provide the very best education, pastoral care and support throughout all of the lockdown periods. Additionally, I would like to also thank everyone at home who has supported remote learning in what I know have been extremely challenging circumstances. Finally, I must also thank our students who have consistently attended live lessons and displayed great independence and resilience.

I am genuinely excited that the entire school will be back together again soon and that we will begin to enjoy life's little pleasures when lockdown gradually eases.

Yours sincerely,

Jon Bell
Headteacher

