

26th February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you and your child had a good half term break and your family managed to spend time away from screens and the pressures of on-line learning. I also hope you and your family remain in good health.

Re-opening and Testing

Following this week's announcements by the Prime Minister, we are rapidly making plans to enable a swift return to lessons on site. The exercise in mass testing of all students presents a logistical challenge but we will ensure that we do everything to enable all returning students to be tested three times in school with the required gaps in testing, as per guidance.

Please assist us with this by completing the **consent form**, preferably by the end of today, so that we can allay any concerns about members of our community being amongst some who do not take part and hence, do not receive a negative test.

Schools are leading the way out of this lockdown and we must all do everything we can to make this a success. I sent a letter to you earlier this week about testing which you can find [here](#). In it you will find information and a contact for any questions that remain.

Draft plans (subject to change) to bring students back on site

Week commencing 1 st March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vulnerable groups and children of key workers continue with on-site provision throughout Monday to Thursday only.• All other students continue with virtual live lessons at home throughout Monday to Thursday only.• Friday 5th March – no students on-site.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- No live lessons but all students will be set work for the day on their Google Classrooms by 8.30am.- Staff return to the site in order to prepare their classrooms, resources and plan for lessons on-site.- Preparations for mass testing and training of staff.
Week commencing 8 th March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mass testing begins and continues until Tuesday 23rd March (to incorporate the first three tests we are required to administer at school). From Wednesday 24th March, the school should be issuing home testing kits to all students.• A week of blended learning for students. Students will either:<ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Attend the school site only for their first test, or,b) Work at home attending on-line live GM lessons, or,c) Attend the school site, after a negative test, to attend live lessons on-site• Friday 12th March – all students should be back on-site attending lessons and the rota for second and third tests will commence throughout the school day and continue until Tuesday 23rd March.
Week commencing 15 th March 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All students should be attending school.<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Timetable arrangements will be the same as they were in the autumn term. This means staggered starts and ends to the school day – the school day arrangements can be seen here.- Testing of all students continues and takes place during the school day.

NB: Once we return to lessons on-site there will no longer be any virtual lessons taking place. All students will be required to attend on site.



**Southfields
Academy**

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Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) Students & Shielding

Parents of students who have been identified as CEV and who have received a letter from the NHS, their clinician or GP to advise them to shield, should send a copy of this letter to natalie.stearn@southfieldsacademy.com so that the appropriate attendance mark can be given. Any parent who believes their child should be shielding but who has not received a letter should contact their GP.

Uniform

Please support your child with the usual school preparations around uniform and equipment. If you need to order new uniform please read our guide [here](#). You will have the option to have your order delivered or to collect it from the Academy.

Additionally, there will be some further enhanced safety measures (as well as regular testing) as the guidance now requires all of us to wear face masks indoors. This means students will have to wear masks in lessons as well as in corridors and other communal indoor areas. We will continue to spend time outdoors when not in lessons and although we are coming into spring please ensure your child has appropriate layers and a warm coat. Next week, and on return, we shall republish our safety measures and regulations.

Summer Examinations

Yesterday further announcements were made by the DfE regarding examination classes this summer. Examinations remain cancelled and students completing GCSE, A levels and other vocational qualifications will be awarded grades by teachers. There is guidance around this procedure that we must check closely to ensure we follow expected activity. When we have more detail we will be sharing this with the appropriate student and parent groups. Meanwhile, you can read information from Ofqual [here](#) which summarises the changes.

Parent Remote Learning Survey

Thank you to parents who provided feedback and took the time to complete the Remote Learning Survey. I am very grateful for this.

You were very positive in your assessment of your children's experience of online learning, and of how you have found supporting them. You were also overwhelmingly positive in your judgement of your child's experience of learning in this lockdown compared to the last. You were also pleased with the type of feedback your children have been receiving on their work in the Google Classroom, and particularly noted the benefits of live interactions between staff and students, class discussion and the use of Break Out rooms as useful experiences and strategies.

You also raised points such as the pace of lessons and the importance of checking understanding, and how it works when your children are completing independent work. You also pointed out some subjects where the learning has felt less successful.

In light of this, we will be sharing this with the relevant departments so they can further discuss successful strategies they can use remotely for what we hope is the last phase of remote learning. You also raised the benefits of teacher interaction, so we are requesting that our staff record their remote lessons from Monday 1st - Friday 12th March. This will enable staff and students to have 1:1 conversations at the end of lessons where needed or participate in sessions such as careers interviews. These recordings will only be accessed by the safeguarding lead in the case of any reported safeguarding incidents. These recordings will be stored safely, and deleted at the end of the academic year. Any further queries on this aspect please contact google@southfieldsacademy.com

Next week I hope to present a video stream giving some of the detail surrounding the arrangements for the next few weeks alongside a further written communication outlining the detail of when each student will need to arrive for their first test.

Thank you for your invaluable and on-going support.

Yours sincerely



Wanda Golinska
Headteacher