

**Thursday 25th February 2021**

Dear Parents/Carers,

This will be the first of two letters that I will send today.

This letter contains all of the details needed regarding return to school dates and testing.

The letter that will follow later in the day will be for Year 11, 12 and 13 students and parents/carers regarding exams.

**Covid testing**

I had initially thought that I would not be able to give you further details on exact return times and dates until Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March, however, the Government have changed some of the guidance around testing so I am pleased to be able to write to you sooner.

We are now able to test students the week before they return to school. We need to conduct 3 tests for every student who consents to testing and these tests have to be 3 – 5 days apart. Once the students have had 3 tests, they will then be provided with tests to take home each week. We will provide more guidance on this once the 3 tests have been completed. Therefore, for those students who have consented, testing dates will be as follows:

Year	Test 1	Test 2	Test 3
<b>13</b>	Monday 1st March	Thursday 4th March	Tuesday 9th March
<b>12</b>	Monday 1st March	Thursday 4th March	Tuesday 9th March
<b>11</b>	Monday 1st March	Thursday 4th March	Tuesday 9th March
<b>10</b>	Tuesday 2nd March	Friday 5th March	Wednesday 10th March
<b>7</b>	Tuesday 2nd March	Friday 5th March	Wednesday 10th March
<b>8</b>	Wednesday 3rd March	Monday 8th March	Thursday 11th March
<b>9</b>	Wednesday 3rd March	Monday 8th March	Thursday 11th March

The testing will take place between 12pm and 6pm. Using the email address you have provided on the consent form, we will send your child's appointment times to you tomorrow. The email will contain further instructions on where your child should go upon arrival at school.

If the appointment takes place on a non-school day, your child will need to attend their appointment on time and will then leave the school site to return home once they have taken their test.

If the appointment takes place on a school day, your child will be sent to take their test and will then return to their lesson as normal.

We cannot test any child for whom we have not received consent. The purpose of the testing is to pick up any cases where a child may be asymptomatic and at risk of spreading Covid-19 to more vulnerable members of our society. People have expressed concerns about the test hurting, it isn't painful if conducted properly and it is really, really quick! The students will swab themselves and will be given as much time as they need to do this. The results are returned normally within 30 minutes. The results will be sent to the email address that you have provided on the consent form.

If you have not yet completed a consent form for your child, please do so here [www.nusa.org.uk/consent](http://www.nusa.org.uk/consent) by **Thursday, 25 February 2021, at 5pm.**

### **Returning to school**

We want all of our students to come back to school and be provided with all of the information they need to make the best start. It will be an exciting time, but an anxious time, for some of our students. Therefore, we will return our students in a phased manner ensuring that they have opportunity to have a small group assembly with myself, followed by a reminder of our Covid routines and expectations. They will also be issued with another copy of their timetable and we will check that they are ready for lessons.

The students will return as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Year group</b>
<b>Monday 8th March</b>	08:30am	11 A Band
<b>Monday 8th March</b>	09:30am	11 B Band
<b>Monday 8th March</b>	10:30am	11 C Band
<b>Tuesday 9th March</b>	08:00am	Year 12 and 13
<b>Tuesday 9th March</b>	08:30am	10 A Band
<b>Tuesday 9th March</b>	09:30am	10 B Band
<b>Tuesday 9th March</b>	10:30am	10 C Band
<b>Wednesday 10th March</b>	08:30am	7 A Band
<b>Wednesday 10th March</b>	09:30am	7 B Band
<b>Wednesday 10th March</b>	10:30am	7 C Band
<b>Thursday 11th March</b>	08:30am	8 A Band
<b>Thursday 11th March</b>	09:30am	8 B Band
<b>Thursday 11th March</b>	10:30am	8 C Band
<b>Friday 12th March</b>	08:30am	9 A Band
<b>Friday 12th March</b>	09:30am	9 B Band
<b>Friday 12th March</b>	10:30am	9 C Band

Students should arrive as above at their allocated time in full school uniform. As an example, a student in 7A Band would come back to school for the first time on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 08:30am and would then remain in school full time from that point forward.

Work will be set for students who are awaiting return. We will not hold any further 'live' seminars from the week commencing Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March but will set assignments on Teams.

*The information below on mask wearing and uniform was included in my previous letter.*

### **Mask wearing**

On our return to school, all students will be expected to wear masks at all times, except in PE lessons and when outdoors. Therefore, your child will need to come to school with a mask each day. Where a child forgets a mask, we will issue a new disposable one and will make a note on their Bromcom. If your child is exempt from mask wearing, they will have previously been issued with an exemption card. We will, however, reissue these in case they have been lost. If you have not yet requested an exemption card and your child is exempt, please complete the form below by Friday March 5<sup>th</sup> at 5pm:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LuLr9FO180SIVj4NhJCOuPd1\\_L7I7bZEo6XA7dpt3\\_hUOUZJSzBKODg5VkvUTVdWUFpaVIRDQkFQOS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LuLr9FO180SIVj4NhJCOuPd1_L7I7bZEo6XA7dpt3_hUOUZJSzBKODg5VkvUTVdWUFpaVIRDQkFQOS4u)

If your child refuses to wear a mask, and does not have an exemption card, we will follow our normal school behavior policy in terms of consequences.

### **Uniform**

Our children have been out of school uniform for a long time now, therefore, it is highly likely that items which fit before Christmas, may not fit as well now. It is vital we hold our high expectations of all of our students and insist that they return in full school uniform from the 8<sup>th</sup> March. However, we are understanding that with non-essential shops being closed, it may be difficult to replace some items. Therefore, can I ask that you do two things. Firstly, please ensure your child tries on all of their school uniform, including PE Kit and shoes. Secondly, if you know that your child will not be able to be in full school uniform on our return as an item no longer fits, please contact your child's Head of Year as below, as we may be able to assist:

Year 7 – Mr Kirkby – [skirkby@nusa.org.uk](mailto:skirkby@nusa.org.uk)

Year 8 – Miss Hemm – [lhemm@nusa.org.uk](mailto:lhemm@nusa.org.uk)

Year 9 – Miss Malhi – [gmalhi@nusa.org.uk](mailto:gmalhi@nusa.org.uk)

Year 10 – Miss Strawson – [lstrawson@nusa.org.uk](mailto:lstrawson@nusa.org.uk)

Year 11 – Mr James – [lujames@nusa.org.uk](mailto:lujames@nusa.org.uk)

A reminder of our uniform can be found on our website:

<https://www.nusa.org.uk/page.php?p=uniform>

If you have any concerns or queries, do get in touch.

Take care,

Emma Howard  
Head of School