



Dear Parent or Guardian,

Students Returning to School – Term 4 – Please Read Very Carefully

Thank you for the fantastic support and positive feedback so many of you have given us as a school over the last year. Our school community has faced many challenges, and as part of that community, we acknowledge the specific challenges that parents and students have faced. The changes to our day-to-day lives have been unfathomable, and at times, we have all struggled. Some of us have endured tremendous difficulties and stresses, both mental and physical. As we move forward together, we want you to know that we are here to support you and your child as they return to school.

Our main priority will continue to be students' health and safety, and emotional and mental wellbeing, as well as ensuring a high quality of lessons. We want to ensure students feel supported in returning to the structure of the school day and classroom environment. We want our students to know that this as an opportunity for a fresh start, and a chance to reset. It is an opportunity to meet with their friends, talk with their teachers, receive face-to-face support and guidance, and to know they have an environment focused on building their character and helping them to achieve high quality academic qualifications needed for the challenges of the future.

The vision for Aylesford School is to provide high quality academic and 'Character Education' which develops confident young people who are successful learners and contribute positively to society. This is underpinned by our focus on developing 'Courage, Confidence, Character'.

Since 2016 our students and staff have been making our vision a reality, and this has continued through lockdown. We must all try to avoid being caught up in the current media portrayal of our students being a 'forgotten generation' and that all children must now spend the next year 'catching up'. Yes, there will be hard work ahead, but we would always expect our school community to be working hard. Yes, it may take time for some students to settle back into the routines and expectations of school. However, all our students can still achieve academic success and develop the character and skills that they need to take their place in the society. Attending school every day will be important, as will be working hard in lessons; completing tasks to the best of their ability; having high quality lessons; and highly qualified and supportive staff. As always, it will be important that parents, students and staff work together.

It is important that our students are happy in school so we will also be looking at creative ways to ensure students are able to have fun and enjoy education once again

We are looking forward to meeting students again and hope that they too are enjoying the prospect of returning to school in the next couple of weeks.



Testing of students and the date that each year group will return full time:

We are working to keep our school as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using quicker COVID-19 tests known as ‘lateral flow tests’.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing, we will help to stop the virus spreading and help keep our school open as safely as possible. The tests are voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

The Government have announced that all secondary school students need to be tested twice weekly with a 3 day to 5 day gap between each test. The first three tests will be carried out at school and then tests will be provided for parents to test students at home. Parents will need to inform the school of results. All students must have at least one negative test recorded before they return to school.

To ensure a smooth transition back to school, which is safe and organised we will have a staggered programme of testing and return to school. The testing of students and their return dates are as follows:

Year Group	Testing – Dates and Times	Date Returning to School Full Time
Year 12 and 13	1. Monday 1 st March 8:00 – 11:30 (Students required to come in for Covid test only and will go home afterwards) 2. Friday 5 th March 8:00 – 11:30 (Students required to come in for Covid test only and will go home afterwards) 3. Wednesday 10 th March 12:30 -15:30 (Students will be back in school full time and will be tested during the school day)	Monday 8 th March
Year 11	1. Monday 1 st March 12:30 -15:30 (Students required to come in for Covid test only and will go home afterwards) 2. Friday 5 th March 12:30 – 15:30 (Students required to come in for Covid test only and will go home afterwards) 3. Tuesday 9 th March 12:00 -15:00 (Students will be back in school full time and will be tested during the school day)	Monday 8 th March

Year Group	Testing – Dates and Times	Date Returning to School Full Time
Year 10	1. Wednesday 3rd March 8:00 – 11:30 (Students required to come in for Covid test only and will go home afterwards) 2. Monday 8th th March 8:00 – 11:30 (Students required to come in for Covid test only and will go home afterwards) 3. Friday 12 th March 8:30 – 11:30 (Students will be back in school full time and will be tested during the school day)	Tuesday 9 th March
Year 9	1. Thursday 4 th March 9:00 -11:30 (Students required to come in for Covid test only and will go home afterwards) 2. Tuesday 9 th March 9:00 – 11:30 (Students required to come in for Covid test only and will go home afterwards) 3. Monday 15 th March 9:00 – 11:30 (Students will be back in school full time and will be tested during the school day)	Wednesday 10 th March
Year 8	1. Wednesday 10 th March 9:00 -11:30 (Students required to come in for Covid test only and will go home afterwards) 2. Monday 15 th March 12:30 -15:00 (Students will be back in school full time and will be tested during the school day) 3. Thursday 18 th March 9:00 – 11:30 (Students will be back in school full time and will be tested during the school day)	Thursday 11 th March
Year 7	1. Thursday 11 th March 9:00-11:30 (Students required to come in for Covid test only and will go home afterwards) 2. Tuesday 16 th March 9:00 – 11:30 (Students will be back in school full time and will be tested during the school day) 3. Friday 19 th March 9:00- 11:30 (Students will be back in school full time and will be tested during the school day)	Friday 12 th March

I enclose an instruction leaflet with some more information.

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If you have not already done so and you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete the consent statement (one per student). You can complete the form electronically by following this link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd1x4lx185dPRZh1Wj4ijEgCS2sUAUZuw2An7LRdrc19k2KCg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Those taking the test will be supervised by trained staff. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy, using a swab of your nose and throat..

Results will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating.

We know these tests work - in validation studies conducted by Oxford University and Public Health England, they were shown to be as accurate in identifying a case as a PCR test (99.68% specificity). The tests have lower sensitivity, but they are better at picking up cases when a person has higher viral load, hence the need to test frequently.

Frequently Asked Questions regarding student testing:

What if a pupil tests positive?

Participating staff and pupils who test positive will be informed about their results individually. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be notified. Guidance on safe travel and additional precautions will be provided along with test results.

If a pupil tests positive they will need to take a further 'PCR test' (similar to those done in local and regional testing sites) on the same day (or as soon as possible). The school has a small supply of PCR tests, to perform at home, that can be given to those who would encounter difficulty arranging a test at a testing site. You can go to www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test or call 119 to book a follow-up test. If ordering a PCR test yourselves, you should choose to visit a drive-through test site if possible, as it is faster than requesting a home test.

Anyone who requires a PCR test and is waiting for result (via text / email) will need to self-isolate. If the PCR test returns a positive result, you will have to self-isolate and follow the guidance from NHS Test and Trace.

What happens if the test is negative?

They will be able to stay in school and resume their activities as normal. A pupil will only be told if they test positive on a 'lateral flow' test, so if you do not hear you can assume it was negative. A small number of pupils may need to repeat the test if the first test was invalid or void for some reason.

What if my child or someone in my household develops symptoms?

If your child or anyone in their household has symptoms, your child must not attend school.

This testing programme at school is for people with no symptoms. If your child develops symptoms at any time (such as a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; or a loss or change to their sense of smell or taste, continuous headaches or stomach bug symptoms) they must immediately self-isolate, and book a test by calling 119 (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or visiting <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. **Parents must let myself and Mrs Bartholomew know immediately.**

Mrs Bartholomew can be contacted on: Maria.bartholomew@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

Students Returning to School:

All students are expected to attend school full time on the date allocated following a negative covid test as follows:

Year 12 and 13	Monday 8 th March
Year 11	Monday 8 th March
Year 10	Tuesday 9 th March
Year 9	Wednesday 10 th March
Year 8	Thursday 11 th March
Year 7	Friday 12 th March

There will be no live online lessons the week beginning 8th March. Students will have remote learning tasks set via SIMS to complete that week until their date of return. This is to allow us to complete the Covid testing, and to welcome each year group back.

Staggered Start and End of Day Times – This has not changed

Students will be in school as per staggered start and end time arrangements originally put in place in September.

Year Group	ARRIVAL TIME SLOT	END OF SCHOOL DAY
7	08:15 - 08:30	14:30
8	08:30 -8:40	14:40
9	08:40-08:50	14:50
10	08:30- 8:40	14:45
11	08:15 - 08:30	15:00
Year 12 and 13	08:15-08:30	14:45 (If they have study time Period 5 we will allow them to leave at lunchtime to study at home)

The only exception to these arrival/ drop off times will be in the case of siblings, who can arrive together using the earliest start time of two and the latest end time.

Due to the large scale of this and the absolute requirement that year group bubbles are protected, we will not be able to make any exception based on individual circumstances.

Avoiding use of public transport to and from school. (This has not changed)

This is possibly the most disruptive requirement as set out in the government guidance. It is strongly advised that students do not use public transport or crowded buses. This will require students to walk, cycle or be dropped off and picked up by car (at the specified times). Buses will be running, but places on the buses will be limited and will require all children above the age of 11 to wear face masks at all times. We have been asked to make clear that use of public transport should only be when there is no other safe alternative.

The government have not been clear on car sharing, but at current time, this seems to be ok as long as it is the same children/ households sharing each day. This may be a solution when you are not able to pick up or drop off yourself. This can include children from other year groups but only when there is no other alternative.

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Year Group Bubbles and Base Areas (These have not changed)

As per government guidance, students will still be in their ‘Bubbles’ - which will be the same as they were before Christmas. A bubble is a group of students that do not mix outside of this bubble whilst in school. This limits their contact with others and reduces risk of infection. It also means that should there be an outbreak this can be addressed as a bubble and not impact the whole school.

To achieve this isolation of bubbles, students will be taught in their year group at all times. Often this will be in the same classrooms. They will be taught together, take lunch and breaks together and will arrive and leave school at the same time.

Each year group will be in their own ‘bubble’ and has been given an area of the school to be based in. Students will be in their base area for all written subjects and for break time. Students will also be in their base area in the case of wet lunches. Students must ask for permission from a member of staff to leave their base area for any reason.

Students will stay in their base areas within their bubble and staff will move classrooms rather than students moving during lesson change over. This will require students to show good character during unsupervised times when teachers are changing. Students are expected to have their own reading book with them at all times and will be expected to read during lesson change over.

We hope that students will still be able to have their practical lessons as normal – students will be picked up by their teachers from their base.

	Where to line up at the beginning of the day in mentor groups	Entrance and Exit to Building	Base Area for Lessons	Base Area for outside lunch – weather permitting
Year 7	Go straight to reception – staff will be there to greet you	Main Entrance Twickenham Building by reception.	Upstairs in Twickenham	Top end - field
Year 8	Line up where you would go for a fire drill	Twickenham Building - fire escape end (Art End)	Upstairs in Twickenham Building	Top Playground with exercise equipment
Year 9	Line up in mentor groups on the MUGA	Wimbledon	Upstairs in Wimbledon Building	Area opposite playground
Year 10	Line up in mentor groups on the MUGA	Lords building – playground end	Upstairs in Lords Building	MUGA
Year 11	Line up where you would go for a fire drill	Lords Building - fire escape end	Downstairs in Lords Building	Bottom end- Field
Year 12 and 13	Go straight to 6 th Form Centre	Wembley	Downstairs in Wembley – 6 th Form Centre	To be confirmed (free choice)

Break time (This has not changed)

Due to the need to ensure year group bubbles do not mix break time will take place in year Group Base/Bubble areas. Students must bring their own snacks and drinks for break time. The canteen will not be selling food and drink during the school day. There will be opportunity for students to fill up their own water bottle.

Lunch (This has not changed)

We will be requesting that students bring packed lunches where possible.

The canteen will be able to provide food on a pre-order and pre-payment basis. The cost of a meal will be £3 and must be pre-paid using the normal Parent Pay system.

The meal options are as follows:

- Ham & Cheese Flatbread Meal Deal
- Pizza Slice Meal Deal
- Panini Meal Deal
- Sausage Roll Meal Deal
- Ham, Cheese or Tuna & Cucumber Sandwich Meal Deal (brown or white bread)
- Pasta & Sauce Meal Deal
- Jacket Potato with Beans, Cheese or Tuna Meal Deal

All the above comes with Drink, Biscuit & Fruit.

All are £3 per day.

Other notes and Expectations:

School Uniform

Students should be in full school uniform. We do understand that students have grown and shops have not been open for you to purchase new uniform, but every attempt should be made to ensure students are in full school uniform. The shops that parents usually purchase uniform from are taking online orders, which take 7 days to arrive.

Please dig out the school uniform in the next few days and get your child to try it on and check it still fits.

If there are any major issues with this, please put it in writing to your child's mentor and Progress Leader.

School Rules:

Respect, Ready and Safe

Our students know these rules and our expectations have not changed.

Preventing the spread of Coronavirus

The DFE have asked us to remind you of the following advice:

HANDS

Staff and students must wash hands or hand sanitise regularly throughout the day (On arrival, entering a new building, at the end of break and at the end of lunch).

FACE:

All students and staff are required to wear masks/ face coverings in enclosed spaces, including in classrooms during lessons.



SPACE:

Students must not touch each other

Students must maintain at least 1 metre distance where possible and 2 metres in communal areas.

Students must maintain a 2-metre distance from staff at all times.

Please remind your child that they must not mix with students outside of school - this includes on the way to school and on the way home from school.

Support and Key Contacts

I am aware that this is a lot to take in, but please be assured that we are here to support you and your children. If you have any concerns at all, please contact the relevant member of staff:

Maria Bartholomew	maria.bartholomew@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Attendance
Mrs Land	niamh.land@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Teaching and Learning/SIMs App
Mrs James	katie.james@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Deputy Headteacher - Year 10,11,12,13
Mr D Wright	david.wright@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Character, and Safeguarding Lead
Mr Matthews	dan.matthews@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	AHT- KS4 and ICT and Laptop loaning
Mrs D Morris	deborah.morris@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Office Manager
Miss Duff	chayla.duff@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Key Stage 2-3 Transition, SENCO
Mrs Hodgson	tracy.hodgson@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Key Stage 4 Pastoral Support
Mrs Severn	nikki.severn@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Key Stage 3 and 5 Pastoral Support
Mr Walker	Byron.walker@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	AHT- Director of Maths
Mrs Morrison	colleen.morrison@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Head of English
Mr Herrod	nicholas.herrod@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Head of Science
Mr Martindale	mark.martindale@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Head of Science
Mr Statham	josh.statham@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Year 7 Progress Leader
Miss Vidler	Hannah.vidler@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Year 8 Progress Leader
Mr Cooper	paul.cooper@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Year 9 Progress Leader
Mr Axford	Thomas.axford@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Year 10 Progress Leader
Mr Neeve	Philip.neeve@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Year 11 Raising Standards Leader
Mr Kenmure	simon.kenmure@aylesford.kent.sch.uk	Assistant Head of 6 th Form

We will continue to support our staff and students throughout.

I will be delivering assemblies to which all students and parents are invited to attend. The links are as follows:

Thursday 25th February Years 7, 8 and 9 8.45am
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86545676135?pwd=WGU5bGRaV0cwWlFqbW8yS3BzZ0FUUT09>

Friday 26th February Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 8:45am
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89248016633?pwd=eWx1OGovOUNnRDdwa0c3dGpIU1Jydz09>

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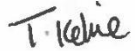


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I look forward to seeing all of you!

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,



Miss T Kelvie
Headteacher

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