



3rd March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We have continued to be updated with additional information around the re-opening of schools. Having digested the extensive guidance we are now able to share our plans for welcoming your child back to school from March 8th. Can I start again however by thanking you on behalf of all the staff at the Sydney Russell School for your support during this last lockdown. It has been very much appreciated. I also hope that you feel that our school has worked well with you to do all that we can to support your child's learning and welfare during this time. Your kind messages and words of support certainly helped fuel our staff during this difficult time.

We are pleased that our young people can be reunited with their friends, be with their teachers and be able to learn in a school setting. As we reunite our community of over 2500 students and 250 staff I can assure you that our plans for re-opening continue to be driven by our principles of safety and the quality of education, both of which have served us well since September 2020. However, we also recognise that our young people have been through a tough time. We will be doing everything we can to support their return to school and their health and wellbeing. Our vision to **'unlock the potential of every child, challenge expectations and level the playing field'** never seemed more important than now.

Primary Phase

All our primary school children will return on Monday 8th March. It will be a normal school day.

All previous safety precautions and protocols remain in place with the additional safety measure of primary school staff taking two rapid coronavirus (COVID-19) tests each week to identify positive cases more quickly and break the chains of transmission.

I ask that all parents of our primary children have their child tested this week prior to their return as recommended by Public Health England. This will help us keep our school as Covid free as possible.

Pupils will continue to have their temperature taken on arrival and entrance, exit and times will be as follows:

EYFS – Arrival and exit at Main Reception 1, 2 and 3 at 08:40 and 14:50.

Years 1 and 2 - Arrival and exit at Main Playground at 08:50 and 14:50.

Years 3 and 4 - Arrival and exit at Main Playground at 09:00 and 15:00.

Years 5 Arrival and exit at Car Park entrance at 08:30 and 14:45.

Years 6 - Arrival and exit at Breakfast Club entrance at 08:30 and 14:45.



Secondary Phase

All previous safety precautions and protocols remain in place with the addition of two further safety measures beginning from 8 March.

The first is that we will be asking all staff and students (unless medically exempt), as per the government guidance, to wear face coverings in all areas, including classrooms, where social distancing cannot be maintained, as a temporary extra measure.

The second is that all secondary school students and staff will be asked to complete three Lateral Flow Tests (COVID-19) as they return to the classroom from Monday 8th March. This mass testing is a very important part of being able to return students to in-school learning safely. The tests are called Lateral Flow Tests (LFT) and they will help us to identify individuals who may be carrying the virus but are asymptomatic (not showing any of the typical symptoms of COVID). This is especially important for young people as research shows that young people can be carrying the virus but often display very mild or have no symptoms at all. Identifying and isolating these cases is vital in the fight to stop the spread of the virus within our community. This asymptomatic testing is strongly encouraged. It is both quick and painless and an important tool in keeping us all safe.

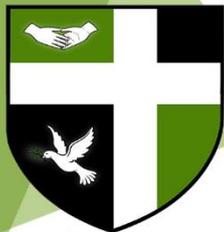
The school has had a test centre in place since January 2021 and has been successfully running tests for in-school students and staff. I am delighted to report to you that we have had an extremely high rate of consent from parents/carers of children who have been in school since January. We have not had a single incident of having to isolate close contacts of anyone testing positive during that time. Your consent is needed for the test. If you have not already given consent please contact the school as a matter of urgency or your child cannot be tested. In addition if you have not already informed the school should your child have had a positive Covid diagnosis within the last 90 days would you please do so as there is no need for them to be tested.

As this will be the first LFT for most student, this test will take the most time as we familiarise them with the process. Students will be greeted by known members of staff and directed to the sports hall where the tests will take place. A member of our team will demonstrate how to administer the test with your child. Tests results will be uploaded to Test and Trace and available to your child. Should there be a positive result the school will contact you as soon as we become aware.

We would ask that our parents / carers impress upon their children the need to ensure they take responsibility to socially distance themselves from others (not in their home bubbles) on the way to and from the school. The structure below highlights when each year group will return, ensuring students avoid mixing in school with those who are yet to be tested.

Years 12 and 13.

We ask that Year 12 and 13 students attend school on Friday 5th March between 10am and 12pm for their first Lateral Flow Test (LFTs). There will be no remote learning this day. School will start promptly for them at 8:40 on Monday 8th March. The remaining 2 LFTs will be done on Tuesday 9th March starting at 2pm and Friday 12th March during the school day.



Year 11

Year 11 will arrive for **10am on Monday 8th March**. They will be tested on arrival in the Sports Hall before entering the main body of the school. Normal lessons should resume by period 3. Tests 2 will take place on Thursday 11th March. We ask that our year 11 do not go to Form Period but report to the Sports Hall for 8:40 for the test. Following that they will go to Period 1. Test 3 will be take place on Monday 15th March. Again we ask that our year 11 do not go to Form Period but report to the Sports Hall for 8:40 for the test.

Year 10

Year 10 will arrive for **8:40 on Monday 8th March**. They will be tested on arrival in the Sports Hall before entering the main body of the school. Normal lessons should resume by period 2. Tests 2 and 3 will be taken on Thursday 11th March and Monday 15th March during the course of the normal school day.

Year 9

Year 9 will arrive for **11:30 on Monday 8th March**. They will be tested on arrival in the Sports Hall before entering the main body of the school. Normal lessons should resume by period 4. Tests 2 and 3 will be taken on Thursday 11th March and Monday 15th March during the course of the normal school day.

Year 8

Year 8 will continue to learn remotely from home on Monday 8th March. They will return to school for **10am on Tuesday 9th March**. They will be tested on arrival in the Sports Hall before entering the main body of the school. Normal lessons should resume by period 3. Tests 2 will take place on Friday 12th March and test 3 will be taken on Tuesday 16th March. On this day we ask that our year 8 do not go to Form Period but report to the Sports Hall for 8:40 for the test. Following that they go to Period 1.

Year 7

Year 7 will continue to learn remotely from home on Monday 8th March. They will return to school for **11:30am on Tuesday 9th March**. They will be tested on arrival in the Sports Hall before entering the main body of the school. Normal lessons should resume by period 4. Tests 2 and 3 will be taken on Friday 12th March and Tuesday 16th March during the course of the normal school day.

Following students having three tests in school we are looking into the Government guidance on distributing two tests each week for students to test themselves at home with an adult to support them and reporting the results of home tests to school on the same day.

Throughout the pandemic we have followed the guidance from Government and will continue to do so. We will continue to review all risk assessments in light of new guidance and adhere to the systems of control for prevention of transmission and response in the event of symptoms or positive cases in school. These systems are



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now established in our school and work to keep us all safe. I know that this is a complicated plan – especially if you have more than one child in the school! However, it is our hope that, with your consent, we will be able to test the majority of our school community and be able to return to school safe in the knowledge that the school is as virus free as we can make it.

I look forward to welcoming our young people back.

Kind regards,

Janis Davies
Principal