



Return of pupils to School from 8th March 2021

Frequently Asked Questions

25th February 2021

	Question	Answer
1.	<i>When will pupils start school after 8th March? Is there a phased return?</i>	We have arranged for pupils to return to School and expect all pupils to be in School by Thursday 11 th March, unless they are self-isolating or quarantining. There will be a phased return as we need to carry out Lateral Flow Tests for pupils before they are readmitted to School. Parents have been sent details of the timings for the tests, and readmission to school. Junior pupils are expected in School on Monday 8 th March.
2.	<i>Why can't pupils all be admitted on the same day?</i>	The Government has set priorities for the admission of pupils, with higher priority being given to exam year groups. We simply don't have the capacity to carry out tests on all year groups on one day.
3.	<i>When will boarders be able to return to School?</i>	We will be inviting Senior boarders to book in to take Lateral Flow Tests on the weekend of 6 th and 7 th March so they will be at school on 8 th March. Junior boarders will return on 6 th March but are not required to be tested.
4.	<i>Will Flexi Boarders be allowed into boarding houses from 8th March?</i>	Only boarders will have access to the boarding houses this term. As soon as circumstances permit, we will allow Flexi Boarders and Non-Boarders back into the boarding houses. At the moment we don't know when that will be.
5.	<i>How will children be kept safe in School?</i>	We have a detailed Risk Assessment and this is regularly reviewed. More details are HERE .
6.	<i>Will children be in bubbles?</i>	Pupils will be kept in bubbles in a similar way to those we had in the Autumn Term 2020.
7.	<i>What is a Lateral Flow Test?</i>	This is a test where a swab is taken from the throat and nose. This swab is added to a solution that is analysed and gives a result in 30 minutes. The test is self-administered. At school the testing is done under the supervision of a nurse. More information about testing will shortly be sent to parents and will be updated on the COVID page of our website.

8.	<i>I have children in different Year Groups – can they be tested on the same day?</i>	For Flexi Boarders and Non Boarders, we can't test siblings from different year groups at the same time, unless this fits within the priorities set by the Government. We recognise this might cause inconvenience, and apologise for this. Boarders will all be tested on the day of their arrival in boarding.
9.	<i>Does my child need to wear school uniform to come for the Lateral Flow Test?</i>	No. However, full school uniform in line with our Uniform policy will be expected as pupils return to school.
10.	<i>My child is already at school as we met the 'critical worker/vulnerable' criteria – will he/she have to take the Lateral Flow Test?</i>	Pupils currently in school are already being tested and will be provided with the home-testing kits to continue this process.
11.	<i>You say that each child will be tested 3 times. I understand that there will be a test before my child restarts school, but when will the other tests be carried out?</i>	The other two tests will be carried out whilst the child is at School and they will take place at intervals of 3-5 days. Further tests will be required after the initial 3 tests, and these should be carried out at home or in the boarding house. Further details about how the testing kits will be distributed will follow.
12.	<i>Will there be further tests required after the first 3 tests?</i>	Yes, please see above.
13.	<i>Is Lateral Flow Testing compulsory?</i>	Along with the other protective measures we are taking, testing will allow us to help your child, as well as other children and staff members to be in as safe an environment as possible. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. Regular testing will help reduce the spread of the virus through asymptomatic transmission. We are therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.
14.	<i>We live overseas – what arrangements are being made for my child to come back to School?</i>	We recognise that not all boarders will be able to return to School on 8 th March. We are therefore continuing to offer remote teaching to those boarders who can't get back to School. They will also have access to a remote clubs and activity programme.
15.	<i>My child will be in quarantine before returning to School – with he/she need to take any tests before coming back to School?</i>	Boarders arriving back in the UK are required to quarantine - please see further information HERE . As part of this parents are required to organise testing on day 2 and day 8. When the pupil returns to the boarding house after the end of the 10 days quarantine they should provide

		the negative day 8 test result in order to access the boarding house. The pupils will then continue to participate in the twice weekly testing at School.
16.	<i>My child is in the Junior School – will he/she need to take a Lateral Flow Test?</i>	No. Junior aged pupils are not currently included in the Government’s Lateral Flow Testing programme.
17.	<i>A member of my family is shielding – does my child still have to attend School?</i>	Government guidance is that pupils with family members who are clinically extremely vulnerable (who are shielding) should attend school. Only pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable themselves and have been advised by the NHS to shield, should not attend school. If this applies please provide a copy of their shielding letter to attendanceofficer@gatton-park.org.uk
18.	<i>My child, or member of their household, has symptoms of COVID, has had a positive test or has been informed they need to isolate for the next 10 days – can he/she attend school?</i>	No, the child should remain at home. Please contact the Attendance Officer on attendanceofficer@gatton-park.org.uk .
19.	<i>Will the School be staying open for the Easter Holidays?</i>	We are not open for the Easter Holidays so all pupils will need to leave at the end of term and return at the start of the Summer Term. Please bear this in mind if you are planning for your child to travel from overseas.
20.	<i>Will my child have to wear a mask in School?</i>	Junior School pupils (Year 3-6) will not be required to wear a mask in School. All Senior and Sixth Form pupils (Year 7-13) will be required to wear a mask at all times when they are in the School buildings, including in the classrooms.
21.	<i>How will you make assessments for GCSEs and A Levels?</i>	We are awaiting further Government guidance about the assessments that will replace the GCSE and A Level examinations and will let parents know as soon as we have a clearer idea of how this will work.
22.	<i>My child is a Flexi Boarder / Non Boarder – will he/she be able to stay for the extended day from 8th March?</i>	Yes. We will be offering a similar Extended Day Programme to the one offered in the Autumn Term.

23.	<i>Will the activities programme be running from 8th March?</i>	The lockdown programme for clubs and activities will be running up to and including Friday 12 th March. A more normal, Covid-secure Co-curriculum Programme will resume on 15 th March. More information regarding booking of this will follow.
24.	<i>Will pupils be able to do sport from 8th March?</i>	Yes. We are very pleased that we can finally offer the standard sporting curriculum from 8 th March. After-school sport will start in full on 15 th March as part of the club and activities programme and subject to the national governing body for sport guidelines.
25.	<i>Is it mandatory for my child to attend School after 8th March?</i>	For Flexi Boarders and Non Boarders it is mandatory for a child to attend School from the date we open for their Year Group. It is mandatory for boarders to attend School from 8 th March, provided they are able to get to School. Where a boarder is unable to return to School due to Covid-related issues, we ask that parent to let us know, and attendance will not be mandatory. Children who can't get to School will be expected to continue with online learning.
26.	<i>What fees will I be required to pay for this term i.e. Jan-April 2021</i>	Full fees will be payable for boarders (who are attending school) from the 8 th March. Full fees for Flexi Boarding will be payable from the date of return of the child's year group. Discounted levels already published will apply up until the date the full fees are payable.