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ROYAL ALEXANDRA & ALBERT SCHOOL



Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Dear Parent

MARCH 2021 RETURN (Boarders)

Following the Government announcement regarding the return of all pupils to school from 8th March, the Senior Leadership Team and other staff have been working on a plan for this based on the Government guidelines.

All Senior School pupils are encouraged to take three lateral flow tests, 3-5 days apart, on their return to school. The first of these should be carried out before the pupil returns and a negative test result will enable the pupil to attend school and access the boarding house.

The pupils currently in boarding with critical worker and vulnerable places are already being tested as part of this programme and will continue to attend school. The following information is for returning pupils:

Return dates

Saturday 6th March 1.00 - 3.00pm Junior Boarders return (no testing necessary)

Saturday 6th March and Sunday 7th March Senior boarders return with bookable testing on arrival

We will send information out about the booking system in the next few days.

Overseas Boarders

We also understand that currently travel plans are problematic for some overseas boarders, and that this, combined with necessary quarantine, will mean that some boarders will be unable to arrive back for the weekend of 6th-7th March. If your child is unable to return to school due to flight/travel difficulties, please email attendanceofficer@gatton-park.org.uk. All pupils not attending school on-site due to overseas travel difficulties, quarantine or self-isolation will be able to continue with remote learning and should access the work as per their usual timetables via Microsoft Teams.

If your child is not currently in the UK, please see [HERE](#) for further information regarding travel to the UK. Please be aware that due to the full return of boarders in March, we do not have the facility to offer quarantine in school. Therefore, it is important that parents consider where your child will carry out this quarantine.

All pupils should return on-site from their designated date unless they or someone within the household has tested positive for or had symptoms of COVID-19 within the previous 10 days. Please notify the attendance officer at attendanceofficer@gatton-park.org.uk if your child is unable to attend.

Easter

The School is not able to run a 'holiday residential' during the Easter break period as we did over the half-term holidays. Parents are reminded that they will need to factor this into their plans.

Masks

The Government has informed us that all Senior pupils and staff should wear masks not only whilst moving around school inside buildings but also in the classroom. All pupils should come to school with a mask but also a spare mask in their bag in case the first is lost. Boarding pupils are encouraged to have at least 5 masks (name labelled) with them in the Boarding House in order to allow for laundry.

Exams

Key Stage 2 assessments will not be going ahead for our Year 6 pupils in the summer. However, pupils will receive assessments during the summer term to give information on attainment and also to support transition to secondary school.

GCSEs and A Levels will not go ahead this summer as planned, however, we are still waiting for confirmation from the Government on how pupils will be assessed. We will be carrying out mock exams for Year 11 and Year 13 pupils and will communicate separately regarding the arrangements for this.

Clubs and activities

We will continue to run the lock down programme for clubs and activities up until and including Friday 12th March. From the week beginning Monday 15th March we hope to be able to operate a more normal, COVID-secure Co-curricular programme. More details will follow.

Please note we will be sending further detail towards the end of next week and also updating the Frequently Asked Questions on the COVID page of our website in the next few days. If you have any specific questions please contact concerns@gatton-park.org.uk – please note this mailbox will only be active until Friday 12th March following which you should contact your child's Head of Year or Head of House as relevant.

I would like to thank you, once again, for bearing with us as we work to pave the way back to a greater degree of normality.

Yours sincerely



Rea Mitchell
Deputy Head Academic

What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they must not come to school and should remain at home for at least **10 days** from the date when their symptoms appeared. Anyone with symptoms will be eligible for testing and this can be arranged via <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> or by calling 119.

All other household members who remain well, must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. This includes anyone in your 'Support Bubble'.

Further information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill.

Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

If you require help with buying groceries, other shopping or picking up medication, or walking a dog, you should ask friends or family. Alternatively, you can order your shopping online and medication by phone or online.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community

If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home, to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

Symptoms

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are recent onset of:

- a new continuous cough
- a high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, your normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness.

If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/check-if-you-have-coronavirus-symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

How to stop COVID-19 spreading

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with getting ill with COVID-19

Do

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information

Further information is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>