



PARENT NEWSLETTER

On the evening of Monday 22 February 2021, the Prime Minister announced that secondary school students will begin a phased return to in-school learning from Monday 8 March 2021.

You will no doubt share our excitement at the prospect of students returning to the school and you will be pleased to know that we are all busy making final arrangements for the safe return of your child to the caring school that you know so well. Alongside the excitement of returning to school, you can be reassured that we will be taking a measured approach to re-integrating all students back in to life at The Lakes School in line with the latest guidance which has been published by the government.

Naturally, when such announcements are made publicly, they lack the detail which is contained in the supporting documents and so this newsletter aims to provide all parents with the finer details of how students at The Lakes School will begin returning from Monday 8 March 2021.

You will be pleased to know that many of the systems and routines we had in place at the school from September 2020 will continue to be in place from 8 March because they have been effective throughout the autumn term in minimising the number of infections of coronavirus. In addition, we need to introduce some new arrangements in light of the guidance published by the government. As always, we welcome your support in discussing these arrangements with your child so that they can understand the wider benefits of the key areas set out below:

- Students will return to The Lakes School in a phased manner from Monday 8 March 2021 so that we can carefully manage the rollout of the Lateral Flow Device testing.
- Until the Easter break, students will be required to wear a face covering in classrooms, corridors and indoor social areas such as the hall, dining area and the maths/language area.
- Students will be offered three lateral flow device tests upon return to school to identify and isolate any positive cases.
- Following the three tests, families will be provided with home test kits so that they can manage the twice-weekly testing of their children in the home.
- Staff will be provided with a home test kit so that they can also carry out twice weekly testing.

Please read on to find out further details about these arrangements along with a number of other important updates including news about the summer exams and what this announcement means for our older students.

The Importance of Trust

We like to trust each other at The Lakes School. As staff, we are extremely fortunate to be able to trust each other as professionals. As staff, we are also able to trust students to behave well, to demonstrate care towards others, to care for each other and to present as ambassadors for the school.

With regard to managing coronavirus, we are very much reliant on our ability to trust each other as members of the community. Parents choose The Lakes School on the basis that you trust us to care for your child and provide them with a unique range of experiences which prepares them for life.

We thank all parents for the trust you place in the staff and governors at The Lakes School and, in turn, we trust our students and parents to take the steps that will keep coronavirus outside the school gates. Thank you for supporting the in-school and home testing arrangements and thank you for notifying us should your child develop symptoms or test positively for Covid-19.

A-Level and GCSE Exams Summer 2021

We fully support the decision taken by Ofqual and the government which means that schools will decide on the Centre Assessed Grades, CAGs, for A-Level and GCSE students who were due to take exams this summer. Your child's teachers will be able to take in to account a wide range of information when arriving on their CAGs and we will be in touch with parents again soon, once we have absorbed the detail of this recent announcement.

What is certain, however, is that our Year 10, Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students, now have a fantastic opportunity to positively influence their final A-Level and GCSE grades for this summer. This is fantastic news which will no doubt provide huge motivation for our older students to make the most of their time during the months ahead.

During the next few weeks, we will be reminding students about the importance of a positive attitude to learning which will be essential if students are to achieve the grades they hope for this summer.

A Phased Return and Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Tests for Students

The government has asked secondary schools to offer students three LFD tests on the school site between 3 and 5 days apart. To reassure all parents and students, the LFD tests will be carried out in private booths in the sports hall with trained school staff.

The timetable below sets out how we are going to manage this at The Lakes School. As you can see from the timetables below, we can only do this with a phased return of students and we would like to thank all parents in advance for your understanding during the first three days of testing as you make personal arrangements for your child to be cared for ahead of their first day at school. Remote learning will continue on 8 March and 9 March to support younger students until they return to school.

[Click here to access The Lakes School Covid-19 Privacy Notice.](#)

Return to School Arrangements for Students

Year Group	First day of school if having lateral flow tests: LFD Test No. 1	First day of school if NOT having LFD Test
Year 12 and 13	Monday 8th March 2021	Tuesday 9th March 2021
Year 11		
Year 10	Tuesday 9th March 2021	Wednesday 10th March 2021
Year 9		
Year 8	Wednesday 10th March 2021	Thursday 11th March 2021
Year 7		

Dates for LFT No. 2 and No. 3

Year Group	LFT Date No. 2	LFT Date No. 3
Year 12 and 13	Thursday 11th March 2021	Tuesday 16th March 2021
Year 11		
Year 10	Friday 12th March 2021	Wednesday 17th March 2021
Year 9		
Year 8	Monday 15th March 2021	Thursday 18th March 2021
Year 7		

Here are some snippets of useful information about LFD testing

1. It is common knowledge that LFD tests are not as accurate or as reliable as PCR tests but they do identify some people who are Covid positive and this has to make the process worthwhile in identifying children and staff who have the virus but do not present with symptoms.
2. LFD tests are not compulsory for students. However, the more students who take part in the on site LFD tests, the better we will be able to keep the school Covid free.
3. The parents of students who test positive via an on site LFD test will be asked to collect their child from school immediately. The positive child will then be required to isolate for 10 days starting from the day after the positive test. **No** confirmatory PCR test is required.
4. In December 2020, 81% of our parents said that they would like their child to take part in school based LFD testing.
5. Parents will soon be able to give consent for their child to have three in school LFD tests via the Arbor Parent App or Arbor Parent Portal. Thank you in advance for responding promptly to this once we let you know via text message.
6. Due to logistical issues in school, the start date for students **who are not** having LFD tests will be a day later than students **who are** having a LFD test, as set out in the schedule above.
7. Further details about how to prepare your child for in school LFD tests will follow.
8. Staff at The Lakes School will also be taking part in a mass LFD testing system.

Home Test Kits for Students and Staff

After their three in school LFD tests, students will be provided with Home Test Kits so that they can carry out twice weekly home testing under the supervision of their parents. We might politely suggest that one test is carried out at the weekend and one mid-week. We are expecting a regular delivery of Home Test Kits which we will distribute to students during the week beginning 15 March 2021 so that home testing can begin from the weekend of 20 March 2021.

In the event of a **negative** LFD test result, parents are encouraged to support their child in registering the result on the NHS website. Students should have an account set up from the school based tests which will make this easier and save time.

In the event of a **positive** LFD test result, parents are required to support their child in registering the result on the NHS website. Parents are also required to contact school so that we can carry out contact tracing and isolate year group bubbles which will help us reduce the possibility of in school transmission.

Where a child tests positive through a home test kit, a confirmatory PCR test **is** required and parents will need to book this through the normal NHS channel.

Staff and Governors at The Lakes School have been issued with Home Test Kits for twice weekly testing and this should provide further reassurance to parents that we are doing all that we can to identify people who are Covid positive. We will be in touch again soon with regard to the home testing arrangements and we thank all parents for your efforts to embrace the twice weekly home testing once the school based testing has ended on 18 March 2021.

Face Coverings in School

In September 2021, we returned to school without face coverings. Later during the autumn, staff and students were required to wear face coverings in the dinner queue and corridors. Students will now be required to wear face coverings in classrooms, corridors, the dinner queue and communal areas from 8 March 2021. Whilst this is not compulsory, we would of course welcome your support in encouraging your child to wear a face covering at these times.

The government will review this over the Easter holiday and we will be in touch should this arrangement change at any time. Read on for information about how to purchase a Lakes School face covering! Is it a face mask? Is it a face covering? Is it a Buff? No, it's a Morf!

Year Group Bubble Reminders

So many of the routines that we had in place during the autumn term will still be in place once students begin to return from 8 March 2021. Students will need to use hand sanitiser, follow the one way system and use wipes to clean their desk before leaving a lesson so that it is ready for the next student.

In line with the autumn term, will also operate the same arrangements for social time so that year group bubbles will be able to spend time together. The indoor arrangements are set out below and will be familiar to students.

As the warmer weather arrives, the vast majority of our students find space to exercise, sit and eat outside and we would again ask students to maintain social distancing and to only gather in small socially distanced groups of around 4 friends.

Year Group Arrangements

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Sixth Form
Upon arrival at school on a normal day for registration	At 8.45am, please ensure that you are at your Lesson 1 classroom Your lesson 1 class teacher will complete your morning registration and provide any daily messages before starting your first lesson of the day at 9.00am. Sixth Form students who do not have a class Lesson 1 should remain in the Sixth Form area for registration.					
Dry Day Before School Break and Lunchtime	We are lucky to benefit from a number of large spaces around school where there is plenty of space for year groups to spend time outside. Students who prefer to stay inside can use the areas identified below.					
Wet Day Before School Break and Lunchtime We will rotate these areas as term progresses	Hall Front Left Seating	Maths Area	Dining Area	Hall Front right seating	Hall Tiered Seating	Sixth Form Area

The Lakes School Morf

Introducing...The Lakes School Morf! Thank you to our uniform supplier, Coniston Corporate, for designing this stylish head, face and neck covering which will be a familiar piece of apparel for the adventurous in the local area.

Costing £5 each, we are currently asking for expressions of interest which you can do by clicking this link and completing the short survey:

[Morf Interest Survey please click here.](#)

