

5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

Return to School Update for Parents

Thank you for your patience as our plans were finalised for the return of our students from the 8th March. We are delighted to now be in a position where we are ready to welcome our students back and we are so excited! We have been in such unprecedented times but I feel incredibly proud of the way our school community and in particular the students, have coped with the ever changing landscape. Our priority now is on getting all of our students back into school and for you and your child to feel confident that we will provide a safe environment in doing so.

Return to School Guide

Attached with this letter is our return to school guide for you and your child. This is intended as a reminder; as very little has changed in the way we will operate and our safety system of controls since the Autumn Term. However, please do take some time to read this information with your child so they are fully aware of the expectations and systems in place when they return next week. The government have also updated their guidance for parents and the link to the document can be [found here](#).

The key change will be that students will be encouraged to wear a face covering at all times whilst in the school building, including all lessons, with the exception of PE. The usual exemption criteria applies and if a parent feels that their child should be exempt from wearing a face covering, then they should email adminoffice@iscaexeter.co.uk Students who are exempt will be asked to wear a badge or lanyard to indicate this.

Testing and First Day Arrangements

Information regarding our testing arrangements and how to book an appointment has been sent out this week and we will send out another update on this today. If you would like to consent to your child being tested and have not already done so, please complete the consent form here: [Lateral Flow Testing Consent Form](#)
If you have any questions at all with regards to lateral flow testing, please do not hesitate to contact us.

If students do not have consent to be tested, **they should return as usual with their year group** on the day stated below.

Essential School will continue to operate for our students until their year group returns to school.

Year Group	Date of First Test	First Day Returning to School	Date of Second Test	Date of Third Test	Dates Essential School Still Open
11	8 th March	9th March	11 th March	16 th March	8 th March Only
10					
9	10 th March	11th March	15 th March	18 th March	8 th – 10 th March Inclusive
8	9 th March	10th March	12 th March	17 th March	8 th – 9 th March Inclusive
7					

On their first day returning to school, students should arrive at school in their full school uniform. If they have PE, they do not need to bring PE Kit for the first two weeks, as adjustments will be made to the lessons to mitigate the fact that students are not changing. This is because we are using the sports hall for Mass Testing during this period.

On arrival, students will need to enter the building through their year group entrance and they will attend lesson one (as per their timetable) where their subject teacher will lead a tutorial session with them. This is intended as an opportunity for students to ask any questions, be supported in their return to school and will also provide an opportunity for us to reiterate our expectations. After lesson one, all other lessons will continue as normal with students following their usual timetable. They will be given a copy of their timetable when they attend for their test or when they return on their first day back, if not being tested.

Students need to arrive at school with the following items:

- A named water bottle which can be refilled when on site if needed.
- Knowledge Organiser and school issued stationary pack as well as any personal stationary, as you should not borrow stationary from other students.
- Face covering and a spare, just in case yours becomes wet / damaged during the day or your badge / lanyard if exempt (these can also be obtained from school).

Year 11

I want to reassure our Year 11 students that despite the exams not going ahead this summer, they will still receive a grade that reflects their ability and enables them to progress to the next stage of their education, training, or employment. There is still time to demonstrate the evidence needed of progress and we are planning opportunities for assessment to enhance this. Students will be graded on content that they have been taught and not what they have missed and we have planned our approach to support them in the coming weeks so that they can demonstrate their ability. Please do not worry and we will give you more information on our assessment plans in the coming weeks.

Remote Learning Plan W/B 8th March

	Monday 8th	Tuesday 9th	Wednesday 10th	Thursday 11th	Friday 12th
Year 7	Live Online	Pre-recorded	Students are back in so normal teaching	Students are in so normal teaching	Students are in so normal teaching Students are tested
Year 8	Live Online	Pre-recorded	Students are back in so normal teaching	Students are in so normal teaching	Students are in so normal teaching Students are tested
Year 9	Live Online	Live Online	Pre-recorded	Students are in so normal teaching	Students are in so normal teaching
Year 10	Pre-recorded	Students are back in so normal teaching	Students are in so normal teaching	Students are in so normal teaching Students are tested	Students are in so normal teaching
Year 11	Pre-recorded	Students are back in so normal teaching	Students are in so normal teaching	Students are in so normal teaching Students are tested	Students are in so normal teaching



Extra-Curricular Offer

The only element of our planning yet to be finalised is the extra-curricular programme. Students will only be able to attend clubs/activities within their year group, or in consistent small groups which will inevitably lead to a reduced offer. We will, however, endeavour to maintain as much breadth and choice as possible within government guidelines. The extra-curricular programme will be shared with you as soon as we are able to. There continue to be restrictions on educational trips and visits at this time.

We very much look forward to welcoming our students back next week, we have certainly missed them! If you have any questions or concerns at all, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aimee Mitchell', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Aimee Mitchell
Headteacher