



THE WHITSTABLE SCHOOL

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www.thewhitstableschool.org.uk | Headteacher: Mrs A M Gibson MA | @TheWhitSchool

1st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

SCHOOL REOPENING

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well. We are really looking forward to welcoming pupils back to school next week. Thank you all for your support during home learning and your patience as we have worked with colleagues across the Trust to plan schedules for testing and reopening.

We wrote to you on Friday about Lateral Flow Testing. You can read that letter [here](#). Once you have given consent for testing, we will contact you separately with an appointment time.

In order to accommodate testing, we will be staggering the return of pupils over the course of two days. Initial testing appointments for all year groups will be prior to pupils' return.

Thursday 4th March	'Reopening' CPD day - no pupils in school From today, there will be no further live learning sessions. Assignments will continue to be posted on Google Classroom
Tuesday 9th March	Pupils in Year 11 and all sixth form students return
Wednesday 10th March	Pupils in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 return (period 1 is a mentor period for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11)

When pupils return, they will attend the year group hubs they are familiar with from the start of school in September and arrive and leave at the same times. They should attend in full school uniform and bring their own equipment from home. As a reminder, our required equipment list is below:

Two black pens
A green pen
A pencil, ruler and rubber
A glue stick
Highlighters for Years 10 & 11
A calculator
A reading book for Years 7, 8 and 9
A choice card booklet
A facemask / covering

Pupils should arrive at their usual year group entrances for an 8:40 start and pupil exits will continue to be staggered (see page 3). Staggered lunch and break times will continue. Hot food will be available as in previous terms and children eligible for free meals will continue to receive these. Please remember the need to maintain social distancing if you are collecting your children from school.



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Gold Award**
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Council England



**GOLD
SCHOOL
2020**

Learn Locally, Think Globally

PE lessons will take place outdoors as much as possible and children must wear their PE kits to school on PE days (see page 3). Initially, we will require all pupils to leave promptly at the times below but will look to provide revision / homework clubs later in this term.

We have completed detailed risk checklists for each year group zone to maximise safety. Following Public Health England guidance, we are providing necessary sanitation materials in every zone and continue to have an enhanced cleaning programme throughout the school day including the routine cleaning of 'touch points'. We will follow all protocols on testing for staff, self-isolation for pupils and staff as required. If you have any concerns, please contact your child's Progress Leaders in the first instance (see page 3).

As pupils return to school, our expectations regarding conduct and behaviour remain the same. Full school uniform should be worn at all times including blazers for Years 7 to 10, formal school shoes and a school tie in the relevant house colour. Pupils are reminded that jewellery should not be worn at any time and mobile phones are not permitted to be used between the hours of 08:30 and 15:00. If jewellery or mobile phones are seen they will be confiscated. Hair colour should be of a natural colour.

Pupils are expected to attend school full time, if your child is unwell and unable to attend please ensure you contact the school in the normal way (either telephone 01227 931300 Option 1 or email tws_attendance@swale.at). We expect pupils, unless medically unwell, to attend. Unauthorised absence could lead to an issue of a Penalty Notice.

If your child tests positive for Covid-19 please inform us as soon as possible through our designated email address: tws_covidemergency@swale.at and a member of our Senior Leadership Team will be in contact.

In line with government guidance, all pupils should wear a face covering in classrooms and communal areas where social distancing can't be observed. Please ensure your child is prepared and brings their own face covering into school each day. If your child is exempt from wearing a face covering and you have not yet informed the school please contact dave.chaplin@swale.at to provide evidence for exemption.

From Wednesday 10th March, teachers will no longer set all assignments using Google Classroom. Instead, they will provide lesson resources in each Google Classroom so that pupils can study these independently or work through them from home if they are self-isolating. We have really appreciated your feedback throughout this period.

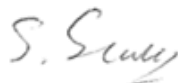
We know that families have had very varied experiences during lockdown and want to assure you that pupil wellbeing will be at the heart of our decision making. We will be focusing on 'the basics' during the next term: pupils attending and behaving well, completing written and practical work to be proud of and working hard.

We are looking forward to seeing our pupils in person and hearing their voices in classrooms once again.

Yours faithfully



Mrs AM Gibson
Headteacher



Mr S Scales
Deputy Headteacher

Key Information for Pupils, Parents and Carers

	Finish time	PE Day	Progress Leader contact email
Year 7	14:50	Monday	kathryn.gee@swale.at
Year 8	15:00	Tuesday	katherine.higgins@swale.at
Year 9	14:55	Wednesday	alan.hampton@swale.at
Year 10	15:00	Thursday	jasmin.connolly@swale.at
Year 11	15:10	Friday	russell.mcleish@swale.at
Years 12 & 13	15:00	N/A	luci.brown@swale.at