

School reopening letter for March 8th

Dear Parent / Carer,

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister announced last night that all school children will be returning to school from the 8th of March. We are excited about getting all of our students back into school. However, we intend to phase the return of students across this week based on the year group they are in. I have repeatedly said that the safety of all members of TeamTanfield is our number one priority. To ensure the safest possible return, we will be testing students before they start attending lessons.

The government has requested that students take three tests over the first couple of weeks, 3-5 days apart. After the initial programme of three tests in school, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home. Students will only need to test negative on their first test, to be able to go to lessons. Any student who tests positive will need to self-isolate for 10 days. I also want to reassure you that all of our previous safety measures will remain in place.

This is the proposed timetable for return:

Monday 8th March	Year 11
Tuesday 9th March	Year 10
Wednesday 10th March	Year 9
Thursday 11th March	Year 7
Friday 12th March	Year 8

We will be in touch closer to the time to let you know the specific time your child needs to arrive at school. We have chosen this approach because we have been told by the government to prioritise exam year groups. To run the testing we need 10 members of staff, all with specific roles. For a school our size we need 4 processing desks and each processing desk can only carry out 11 tests in one hour. Therefore, we will be testing 44 students an hour. As most of our year groups are 150+, we need to spread them out across the week. We are sorry for any inconvenience this may cause. The school will still be open for key worker and vulnerable students during this week. If your child does not want to have a test, they will still return on the day that their year group returns.

Your child will be in school everyday from the date above.

We are looking forward to the point where all of our students are back in school and are no longer required to access their learning remotely. Since January, your support in making sure your children have been logging into their live lessons has been hugely appreciated and we would ask that you continue to make sure they are doing this for a little while longer. The work that students are currently being set remotely will lead directly into the work that they will be completing when they

come back into school. With this in mind, completing their remote learning will help your child to make a successful return to their face to face lessons. You will also be aware that we are currently in the middle of our assessment week. As we have previously mentioned, it is crucial that your child tries their best on these assessments, as we will be using this information to identify learning gaps. We will then be using the first couple of weeks back to start addressing these.

The second significant announcement we hope to hear this week relates to DfE/Ofqual's plans for grading Year 11 students. DfE/Ofqual's plan will have significant implications for our students and staff. Therefore, we will need to plan extremely carefully our approach to the grading of GCSEs in the summer. Once again, as soon as we have established the finer details relating to the awarding of GCSE grades in the summer, we will share them with you immediately.

To carry out the lateral flow tests we need your consent. Therefore, can you please complete this form to let us know whether your child **will or will not** be participating in the testing;

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/14ojpSh5xf0mM-HYihK3EKkLrLenrBz48AX2ey-KFUB4/edit>

Finally, whilst most of our students will be looking forward to getting back to school, to see friends and some sense of normality, we also realise that this may be stressful for some. Therefore, we would like to know. If you have any concerns about your child returning, can you please let us know by emailing the help@tanfieldschool.co.uk email address.

We will continue to keep you updated with any further developments. Until then, I wish you and your families all the best.

Take care and stay safe,