



25 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the announcement from the Prime Minister we are now preparing to welcome all of our pupils back to school on 8th March.

We continue to maintain high standards of health and safety, and social distancing measures will continue across the school. Facial coverings must be worn on the corridors and in communal areas and students may be asked to wear them within some of our smaller classroom spaces.

We have decided to move to a timetable where students will move about to different classrooms for their lessons so that all of the specialist rooms can be used again. At breaks and lunchtimes students will return to their allocated "bubble" area where they will have access to outside space / the sports hall for non - contact sports. As numbers increase on site please be reassured that well-being and safety remain the priority.

Well-Being support

To support our young people as they return to school we are offering every student access to our school counsellor. If you feel your son/daughter may need some support following the extended period of disrupted education or because of anxieties they may have about returning to school post lockdown please contact Mrs Lumsden (Behaviour Support manager). You will be informed if your son / daughter requests this support on their return to school.

Breakfast Club will recommence on 8th March so students will be able to arrive at school from 8.30am and can have toast and a hot drink at no cost.

After schools clubs will also recommence from 8th March and students will be given details of the activities open to them once they return to school. Clubs will run from 2.30pm to 3.30pm.

Family Support

Please contact Chrissy Mclean/Jodie Bain in confidence as regards any additional support you or your family may require. We will be in touch in the coming weeks as regards the parent/carer engagement events we have planned.

Provision Offer and Attendance

All students will return to school on their existing timetable however we do appreciate that this has been a difficult time for all of us and that a return to education in school may be a challenge for some of students. If you would like to discuss a more personalised and flexible approach to

your son/daughter's timetable please can you contact Chrissy Mclean to discuss and we will work with you to support this.

The Government have stated that all the legal aspects related to school attendance are now back in place. At Larches we will continue to work proactively to support you with your son/daughter's attendance at school.

Please note that for Year 11 pupils it is especially important that they attend and engage with their lessons as teaching staff are being asked to submit centre assessed grades to the external exam boards. If your son/daughter is not in lessons then it will be very difficult for the teaching staff to give an accurate grade and could then impact on their post 16 option choices.

Please contact school if your address / mobile numbers have changed so we can update our system as appropriate.

Testing

Home testing for Covid-19 is being introduced for all secondary age pupils. It is important that pupils and students are initially supervised whilst swabbing to make sure they are doing it correctly which is why your son/daughter will be offered Covid testing in school until 19th March. During this time they will be shown how to test themselves, as you will receive test at home kits for your child after this date.

If you wish your child to be tested in school, you will need to give consent using the form on the website <https://www.larcheshigh.co.uk/covid-19-information/> or request one from school. Pupils not undergoing testing should attend school as normal unless they show symptoms of Covid.

Testing is voluntary; however, we would encourage everyone to participate in the asymptomatic testing programme to help break transmission links by identifying those who may be carrying the virus unknowingly.

Expectations

Please can I ask that you ensure your son/daughter returns to school with the correct uniform, appropriate hair colour and understanding that our high expectations of behaviour and attendance are still in place. Normal school sanctions will apply.

We look forward to welcoming all of our students back on March 8th – please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any specific concerns.

Yours faithfully

C Mitchell

Christine Mitchell
Headteacher