



**The South Wolds
Academy
and Sixth Form**

23rd February 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Reopening of schools in England

You will no doubt be aware that the Prime Minister made a statement yesterday confirming that schools in England will re-open for all students from Monday 8 March 2021. As ever, 'the devil is in the detail' and, as it currently stands, returning to school goes hand in hand with enhanced Covid-19 testing for students, where consent has been given. Secondary schools will need to consider how to manage the return of their students over the week beginning 8 March to enable all students to be tested upon their return to school. I understand there will be a series of two further lateral flow tests before home testing can begin, with tests provided by the school.

Furthermore, protective measures for schools have been enhanced and government guidance recommends that face coverings must be worn by students in classrooms and when moving around the school where social distancing cannot easily be maintained, where exemptions do not apply. Students will therefore need to be equipped with a daily clean face covering and a small sealable plastic bag to store it safely in as part of their school equipment from Monday 8 March. Existing protective measures such as one way systems, year group bubbles and staggered break and lunchtimes will continue.

Additionally, Ofqual are yet to publish final details pertaining to how GCSE, AS and A level grades will be awarded this year. So, in the meantime, do remember to work to your highest standard now, in all your returns to your subject teachers, as these may become part of the school's 'evidence' for awarded grades when they are moderated.

I will write to you with full and comprehensive details in advance of the return to school by the end of this week so that you can be fully prepared for the resumption of learning on site. May I continue to thank you for your patience and understanding as we respond to changing government guidance.

We are all looking forward to welcoming every student back on site and until that time it is crucial that students continue to fully engage with their remote curriculum.

Yours sincerely

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