



25 February 2021

Dear Families,

I hope that you are well and that you were able to have an enjoyable half term break even with the restrictions we find ourselves under.

I am sure that you will have seen the latest Government announcement about plans for gradually lifting lockdown, which includes reopening schools. I know that the return to school will cause considerable concern for everyone. We believe we have made our schools as safe as we can for your child to allow them to continue their education.

Important dates for reopening:

We are reopening our schools on Monday 8 March. However, **to allow for testing of students, your school will be in contact with you shortly to inform you of the date your child(ren)'s year group will return to onsite learning.** Rest assured your child(ren) will be returning at some point within the week beginning 8 March.

Reminders:

- **Your child must attend school if it is open and they show no symptoms of COVID-19.**
- Children [classed as clinically extremely vulnerable](#) should not come into school. If you are unsure, please contact your school who will be able to help.
- Full information on our approach to COVID-19 can be found on our website: <https://www.shirelandcat.org.uk/covid-19-information/>

COVID-19 testing in schools:

- We will follow the Government's COVID-19 National Testing Programme to offer students lateral flow tests when they return to school. This is an essential part of reducing transmission rates and keeping everyone safe. We very much hope that all families understand the benefits of your child(ren) being tested and you will give your consent for this to happen.
- With your agreement, all students will be tested as they arrive at school on their first day back.
- You will be hearing a lot more about testing in the next few weeks, how we intend to work on site and the expectations for home testing. Your school will be in touch and as always information will be available on the school website and on the Trust website.

Face coverings:

- Following the Government announcement, all staff and students in secondary schools must now wear face coverings at all times indoors where 2-metre social distancing cannot be maintained, unless exempt under Government guidelines. This includes classrooms.

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To stay up to date on the daily status of your school please visit the Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust website: <https://www.shirelandcat.org.uk/covid-19-information/school-status/> where you also find information on how to help reduce transmission and what to do if your child has symptoms of COVID-19.

If you have any concerns or questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We are always here to help and support you.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Mark Grundy
CEO of Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust

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