



RC/JAE

1 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Reopening of Portchester Community School to all students from 8 March 2021

The government has announced that schools will reopen to all students from **8 March 2021**. We are really looking forward to welcoming back more of our students to face-to-face education. From Monday 8 March 2021, we will be starting our staggered return to school for each Year group and our mass testing programme. Currently, we have over 100 students attending school weekly for a variety of reasons, mainly due to being children of key workers who are helping to keep the county healthy and well.

School attendance: The latest [government guidance](#) states that we can welcome students back on a safe phased basis during the week of 8 March 2021. The idea of the phased return is to support the safe returning process and enable the whole school coronavirus testing programme to begin.

During the week beginning 8 March 2021, we will be starting our phased return. Please see the information below to identify which day your child will be returning. Current key worker groups will continue to attend as normal.

Return to school - From Monday 8 th March 2021					
	Year 11	Year 10	Year 9	Year 8	Year 7
Monday 8th	Testing Lessons in school.	Lessons on-line	Lessons on-line	Lessons on-line	Lessons on-line
Key worker groups x4 in school – 10/9/8/7					
Tuesday 9th	Lessons in school	Testing Lessons in school.	Lessons on-line	Lessons on-line	Lessons on-line
Key worker groups x 3 in School – 9/8/7					
Wednesday 10th	Lessons in school.	Lessons in school	Testing Lessons in school.	Lessons on-line	Lessons on-line
Key worker groups x 2 in school 8/7					
Thursday 11th	Lessons in school	Lessons in school.	Lessons in school	Testing Lessons in school.	Lessons on-line
Key worker groups x1 in school 7					
Friday 12th	Lessons in school	Lessons in school	Lessons in school.	Lessons in school	Testing Lessons in school.
Key worker groups x 0					

On their first day of return to school, students will need to enter via Student Reception to attend a 'Welcome' and first testing session in the Sports Hall. Thank you to the significant number of parents that have already completed the on-line testing consent form. Over 98% of returns have consented to their child participating

Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

Portchester Community School | White Hart Lane, Portchester, Fareham, Hampshire, PO16 9BD

T: 023 9236 4339 | E: office@portchester.hants.sch.uk | www.portchester.hants.sch.uk

Successful Learners – Confident Individuals – Responsible Citizens



in Lateral Flow Testing in school. Students are to complete 3 tests on-site before being issued with a home testing kit. If you have not completed the consent form, please do so as quickly as possible, even if you are not giving consent. The tests are not compulsory, but are one strategy for helping to keep our community safe. The link to the form is detailed below:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=nmtgkvSQcEqfP6Sn6ltddzmRCYPk1rErFgloIMnNKVUQjNKR0l2TEgzSkVXQo5YNFZMNTJNQzhMSi4u>

School attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply.

As a reminder, students should self-isolate and not come to school if they:

- Have coronavirus symptoms or have tested positive.
- Live with someone who has symptoms or have tested positive.
- Are a close contact of someone who has tested positive.

In line with the latest government guidance, students who are **clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school**. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice. Please contact the school so that specific arrangements can be made.

Coronavirus testing

To help us keep everyone safe, we will be offering rapid coronavirus testing to all of our students as they return from 8 March 2021. Students will be asked to take 3 coronavirus tests at school, with 3 to 5 school days between each test. Test results will take about 30 minutes to process. Students can return to school after their first negative result. If, at any point, they test positive, they will need to self-isolate in line with government guidance.

After the 3 initial tests at school, students will be offered coronavirus test kits that they should use twice a week at home.

Our safety measures

Rest assured that we are doing everything we can to make sure our students can return to school safely.

From 8 March 2021, we will be taking the following protective measures:

- All students (unless exempt) will wear a face covering in classrooms, communal areas and corridors. This is in line with the latest government guidance for schools. Staff will instruct students if masks can be removed, for example, in PE lessons.
- Students are to wear Portchester PE kit to school on the days they are timetabled for PE.
- There will be a staggered end to the school day. Years 7 and 8 leaving at 3.00 pm each day and Years 9, 10 and 11 leaving at 3.10 pm each day.
- Cashless catering will restart from Monday 8 March and food will be served at first break only. Please ensure that your child's card is charged for use if needed.
- Each classroom will be wiped clean between each lesson.
- New cleaning staff will be regularly cleaning frequent touch points and communal areas.

Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

Portchester Community School | White Hart Lane, Portchester, Fareham, Hampshire, PO16 9BD

T: 023 9236 4339 | E: office@portchester.hants.sch.uk | www.portchester.hants.sch.uk



Additional support

Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us and we would like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. If you or your child have any concerns about returning to school or, if you think your child might need extra support when they return, please get in touch with your child's tutor. An ideal opportunity to discuss the return to school will be the Parent/Tutor on-line meetings planned for this week. Most parents have already made their appointments by responding to the email sent last week or by using the Parents' Evening Booking System. Your child will also have a number of planned on-line sessions with their Head of Year/Tutor before next week to explain, in detail, the return to school process.

All student timetables will be live on the Class Charts system by Tuesday morning. We are returning on a Week 1 to one hour specialist lessons.

I would also like to thank you for all your support in helping your child learn from home. We will continue to keep in touch if we update our plans or if we need to make changes due to new government guidance.

Thank you again for your continued support and patience.

Yours sincerely

R Carlyle

Mr R Carlyle
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

Portchester Community School | White Hart Lane, Portchester, Fareham, Hampshire, PO16 9BD

T: 023 9236 4339 | **E:** office@portchester.hants.sch.uk | **www:** www.portchester.hants.sch.uk

Successful Learners – Confident Individuals – Responsible Citizens