

Principal: Lesley Welsh



28 February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

### **Coronavirus Update for Year 9 Families**

I hope this finds you and your family safe and well. I am delighted to confirm that, further to the Prime Minister's announcement on 22 February, George Pindar School will open to all students at 8.35am on Monday 8 March. We are looking forward to the return to school and the opportunities that this offers to all students to learn and make progress together.

As you will be aware, the school must operate a system of controls to effectively reduce risks posed by Coronavirus and create an inherently safer environment. These are detailed in the Department for Education's 'Operational Guidance' document to which the school is adhering; our Risk Assessment has been fully updated and a video presentation explaining all procedures and protocols will be uploaded to our website tomorrow which I would urge you to watch with your child. Many of the procedures are exactly the same as they were for the full reopening last September but it is vital that these are adhered to robustly to minimise transmission and to protect the whole school community. There are also two vital new controls in place which are explained below.

Firstly, the Department of Education recommends that face coverings should be worn by all adults and students **in all communal areas and corridors** and, from Monday 8 March, **in all classrooms where social distancing cannot be maintained**. Students must therefore wear their face coverings **at all times** unless eating on yards at breaktime, seated to eat in the dining or main hall at lunchtime or during PE lessons. Please ensure your child has a face covering on arrival at school as this is an essential piece of school equipment and codes will be given to students who forget this. Please provide your child with a spare face covering in case of loss or breakage. Students who are seen without a face covering will be given a warning before being given a code – it is vital that students comply with this rule for the safety and security of the entire school community.

Secondly, as you will be aware, following the Government's announcement on 22 February, schools are required to offer all students three Lateral Flow Device tests over the next two weeks. It is our intention to offer the initial test from 3 March to support the safe return of students on 8 March. The remaining two test(s) will take place during the first week back to school. Rapid testing using LFDs support the return to face-to-face education by helping to identify people who are infectious but not have any symptoms.

LFD testing must take place 3 to 5 days following the initial / previous test to ensure effective results; therefore the testing programme is as follows:

George Pindar School  
Moor Lane, Eastfield,  
Scarborough YO11 3LW  
Tel: 01723 582194  
Email: [hello@gps.hlt.academy](mailto:hello@gps.hlt.academy)

**Thursday 4 March**

09:00:	9APR
09:20:	9CSP
09:50:	9DSA
10:10:	9MWA
10:30:	9PBR

Students should enter the school via reception then walk down the main corridor and past the dining hall to the gym where they should queue at 2m intervals. Trained staff will talk students through the process. After the swab has been taken, students should immediately leave the site and parents will receive an email with the results. In case of a positive result, families will be contacted to give advice on next steps. Tests can **only** be given to students whose families have provided consent – please complete the consent form by following this link: <https://forms.gle/fstRTDKZW3P35tKR6> If you have already completed the consent form, you do not need to do this again.

The second and third tests will take place on Tuesday 9 and Friday 12 March. Following the initial three LFD tests offered by the school, the Department for Education's (DFE) proposal is that parents/carers will have the option to carry out the tests twice weekly at home, with families reporting results to the NHS and to the school. More information will be given about home tests after 8 March.

The system of controls outlined below have been in place since September; please take the time to review all procedures and share these with your child. The Department for Education has asked us to minimise contact between different groups of individuals and as such, your child's year group will form a 'bubble'. Students need to avoid any contact with students in different year groups and as such, students will be based in a smaller number of classrooms than they might usually expect and teachers will move to the classrooms rather than students moving to teachers.

We encourage all students to walk or cycle to school; students who use a cycle or scooter should use the Pindar Road entrance so they can access the bikesheds but please remember that the school accepts no responsibility for student equipment. If using this entrance, please ensure that you maintain a 2m social distance from children in other year groups.

If you intend to transport your child to school, please ensure that you park away from the school site and do not open your own car door to minimise risks of transmission of the Coronavirus. Please remind your child to maintain a 2m social distance from children in other year groups en route to the designated entrance. If your child uses public or school transport to get to school, a face covering must be worn.

Your child should arrive between 8.25 and 8.35am as school does not open before this time and there is no breakfast club. As part of the collaboration with the 'National School Breakfast Project – Covid response' students can collect a breakfast pack every fortnight to eat at home as part of their mission to ensure 'no child is too hungry to learn'. Breakfast packs are available to collect at any



time from the storage box near reception. Your child should enter school via the **staff car park and remain in the Cayton yard wearing a face covering until the bell rings at 8.35am.**

On arrival at school your child must immediately sanitise using the sanitisers which are provided at every doorway – this should be done when entering and exiting every space. Rows in classrooms face the front and students must sit in the seat allocated by their teacher. A full range of subjects will be taught but students will not access their normal teaching rooms for all lessons.

In order to minimise transmission, students **must** bring their own equipment and wear their full school uniform. They will not be able to borrow items of equipment or uniform routinely and we ask all families to support us by ensuring that children are fully dressed and equipped for lessons. A reminder of our uniform requirements can be found here and we ask you to follow them closely: <http://georgepindarschool.org/uniform/> Although Rumours is closed, orders for any replacement uniform can be placed by email to [rumours17@live.co.uk](mailto:rumours17@live.co.uk) or on Facebook and arrangements can be made for collection with payments made by cash on the door or bank transfer. Please remember that only one pair of stud earrings can be worn (any other jewellery **must** be removed at home) and hair must be of a natural colour and style, with no haircuts of less than grade 3.

Students need to bring the following equipment with them to school on a daily basis:

- At least two pens - four colour pens with blue, black, red and green are the most useful for work in school
- A pencil
- A ruler and a rubber
- A gluestick
- Some coloured pencils
- Some highlighters
- The scientific calculator which was provided to them in September
- Their school planner
- A filled water bottle
- A snack for breaktime as there is no food for sale at this time
- PE kit on PE days – it will not be possible to borrow kit

Students will still use the electronic system to pay for their meals but will no longer be able to use the revaluer machine with their fingerprint to 'top up' their school accounts; therefore we encourage all families to use ParentPay to remotely add funds. If you require support with your ParentPay account, please contact [hello@gps.hlt.academy](mailto:hello@gps.hlt.academy) and we will direct your query.

During these unprecedented times it is more vital than ever that students abide by our behaviour expectations. Our Positive Discipline policy, which aims to catch students doing the 'right thing', will remain in operation but additionally, the Coronavirus Code of Conduct is vitally important. Any student who is deemed to be knowingly breaking the code of conduct should expect sanctions.

In order to minimise transmission and for the health and safety of the entire school community, if your child, or anyone in your family, begins to display Coronavirus symptoms (a high temperature,



a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste), please book a test at <https://www.nhs.uk/ask-for-a-coronavirus-test> It is vitally important that you inform school immediately if your child displays symptoms on 01723 582194 or via email to [hello@gps.hlt.academy](mailto:hello@gps.hlt.academy)

We are really looking forward to the return to school; although there is a great deal of information here and many guidelines which we must follow, we cannot wait to welcome our students back to school. We hope that we can work together to help students achieve their very best and close any gaps caused by the Coronavirus lockdown. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact school, with email our preferred mode of communication at this point to [news@gps.hlt.academy](mailto:news@gps.hlt.academy)

I would like to thank you for your support at this difficult time. The last lockdown has been challenging for all of us but I am delighted by the engagement shown by so many students in remote education. This will continue to take place over the next week but teachers are aware that students will need to miss certain lessons to access their LFD test. Thank you for supporting your children to do their very best and please get in touch with school if you have concerns; we are here for our entire school community and look forward to being reunited.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Welsh  
**Principal**