

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2021

### Letter to all families at Hafs Academy

Dear Parents,

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

#### Re-opening of the school

I hope this letter finds you and your families safe and well. This letter is to confirm where we are up to with our planning for the full reopening of the school.

As you will have learned, the government has announced that the staggered return to secondary schools will commence from the week of the **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> of March**. Students will return onsite at Hafs Academy on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> of March** and as part of this staggered return, all year groups must be tested three times for Covid in school using lateral flow tests before home testing begins.

We will continue with the formalities that we had in place before the December Holidays. Some of the main points to remember are:

- Students must stay in their designated bubbles,
- Staggered start and end of the day – students must use their bubble entrances,
- Students must bring their own snacks/packed lunch and water bottle; they cannot share their food and water,
- Covid-19 timetable v3 (which we will be uploaded to our website – you will receive a text message notification),
- Designated toilets and wudu areas for each bubble.
- New: All students to wear masks in class and throughout the corridors.

Please refer to our letter headed “Covid-19 letter”, which can be found on our website, for further details. Please also note that if you or your child has any symptoms you must self-isolate (stay at home) and follow the guidance given in this letter.

Students will return to school as per the following timeline:

<b>Monday: 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021</b>	<b>INSET (For staff only)</b>
<b>Tuesday: 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021</b>	<b>KS3: 7:30am – 2:00pm</b>
	<b>KS4: 7:30am – 2:05pm</b>

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### Lateral flow testing (LFT) for students

We have received the testing kits and testing materials and are now preparing for the return of children.

Following on from the government advice, we have planned to offer all of our students 3 lateral flow tests in school over a two-week period from the 9th March 2021.

These tests are designed to detect coronavirus in people with no symptoms. By testing, we will help to reduce the spread in school through the asymptomatic transmission. We are therefore strongly encouraging all students to take part in testing. Once learners have completed three supervised tests in school, they will be able to transition to regular testing at home with the support of a parent/guardian (more information about home testing will be provided as we receive it).

The Guidance states:

“Secondary schools should offer pupils testing at an on-site ATS from 8<sup>th</sup> March. Testing and return of pupils can be phased during the first week to manage the number of pupils passing through the test site at any one time. You should offer 3 tests, 3 to 5 days apart”

As part of planning all pupils can be tested on their return to school before going to lessons. Each test requires the registration of student details, the test itself is administered by the child, and then 30 minutes of processing time. It would help immensely if all parents and carers could give consent to the Covid testing, if you have not done so already, by completing the consent form.

It is important that your child is willing to take part in the testing as they will have to administer the self-swab under the advice and guidance of the testing team. Knowing how many learners will be tested will help with planning the testing process. **To aid us in this work, please complete the form by 12.00pm on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021.**

The Covid school tests are not for students or staff who have symptoms. Students with symptoms will be expected to follow the normal guidance to remain off school and get a test from a local testing centre. It also remains the case that the whole household must isolate whilst someone in the household is waiting for a test result.

The government also recommended that masks are worn in classrooms as well as corridors when young people return to school. We expect all our students to wear masks

A reminder of school fees, a number of parents have not paid the school fees; this causes unnecessary hardship for the school. Please make sure that payment is made as soon as possible.

We are very much looking forward to the return of all students to school. I hope we are all beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel. We are determined to manage the wider opening of school as safely as possible.

Kind Regards

Hafs Management

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