

HBK reopening from 8 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the Government announcement yesterday afternoon about schools reopening from the week beginning 8 March, the Department for Education sent us yesterday evening detailed guidance to support the reopening process; we are working through this guidance as quickly as we can today and tomorrow, and making plans.

The Government has asked schools to offer 3 initial COVID-19 'rapid tests' to students, the first of which should be done before a student can return to face-to-face teaching in school. The requirement to offer tests to everyone in a school of our size - just under 6000 tests offered over approximately two weeks - means we will have to phase students' return to school. We will draw up the timetable for this, and share it with you, as soon as possible – hopefully, by the end of this week.

In line with the Government's guidance, the phased return will begin with the older students who are closer to examinations, but our aim in any case is to have everyone back in school full-time by Monday 15 March. Achieving this will depend on the supply of the testing kits (we haven't had them yet), the availability of staff and volunteers to support the two-week-long testing process, and our capacity in practice to get through the hundreds of tests per day to meet the schedule.

We will be back in touch with you as soon as possible with more details about reopening.

Device Needs – from Miss Nightingale, Vice Principal

If your child is still trying to use their phone for their online learning please let us know as we have had a delivery of laptops this week. Likewise if your child is sharing a device with another member of the household, we are able to lend a laptop. Please email Mrs Moore (jm@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk)

We really are very much looking forward to having all of our students back in school as soon as we can and getting back to face to face teaching and learning!

In the meantime, take care.

Kind regards,

Mark Patterson
Principal