

Reopening - Thorpe Life Excellence for all



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Issue 21 – 5 March 2021

We are looking forward to welcoming ALL students on Wednesday 10 March 2021
Remember to enter your Year school by your designated gate these open from 8.00 am



We must apologise for the first day of our testing. We had some technical problems and therefore experienced a backlog of students having to wait to have their test. We have now ironed out these problems and the testing centre is running smoothly.

In order to facilitate opening, all students have been offered Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests to check for asymptomatic cases of COVID-19. Students need to complete three onsite LFD tests, three to five days apart, and will be provided with home tests thereafter for twice weekly asymptomatic testing. Although testing is not mandatory, it is strongly recommended and is an additional measure in ensuring our COVID-19 safe environment. Following the three on site LFD tests students will be given home testing kits to conduct their LFD tests twice per week at home. If your child takes part in these tests, results should be reported to NHS Test and Trace and shared with the school. Further information will follow on home testing.

Testing will take place as a 'book, test and go' system, Test 1 has already taken place and **Test 2 will be running on Monday 8 March 2021 or Tuesday 9 March 2021**

Test 3 will take place on Thursday 11 March 2021 or Friday 12 March 2021. Students will be allocated a time to attend the Test Centre. This will be arranged by the school. Students need to take **ALL THREE tests**. Further information on testing is available [here](#).

If your child is following Public Health advice to self isolate or shield during this period they should stay at home and not book a test. Similarly, any student who has tested positive in the last 90 days should not book a test as this can invalidate the test result.

Throughout the testing days our school provision for vulnerable students and the children of key workers continues and live blended learning lessons following the student timetable will be operating for all. Staff are aware that students may be absent if attending the test centre during these days.

Our test site will remain open on identified days so that students who are unable or unwilling to self test at home can complete the test in school.

We will only notify you if your child has a positive result. If you do not hear from us, your child has tested negative in the LFD tests and they should attend school from Wednesday 10 March 2021 unless they start to display symptoms of Coronavirus.

If your child receives a positive LFD result, you will be contacted immediately and a member from the same household will have to collect their child from school as public transport cannot be used and the whole household should self isolate immediately for 10 days. There is no need to take a further PCR test despite information you may have seen previously, this requirement has been removed. Please inform the school by emailing trackandtrace-tsa@yare-edu.org.uk as confirmed cases need to be reported to the PHE.

Uniform - Students should be in full school uniform. A reminder that Stevensons of Norwich is now our uniform stockist. Please visit: www.stevensons.co.uk for the full range of uniform.

Windows will remain open in classrooms to aid ventilation and whilst we hope that the weather improves over the coming weeks it currently can be quite chilly. We advise that your child wears a base layer under their shirt to keep warm and coats will be permitted in the classrooms. Hooded tops are not permitted.

The new PE kit is available to order and Stevensons have reported high sales recently. The new t-shirts and midlayer look very smart and are very warm and these can be ordered when your child grows out of the maroon kit. Please ensure your child wears either the maroon top for PE or the new one. This is particularly important as the students are wearing the PE kit on days that they have PE as changing rooms will remain closed until further notice.

There have been some reports of parents struggling to obtain shoes for their children due to stocks being low in some online stores. If you are having difficulty obtaining shoes or have any other uniform concerns, please contact the school on office@thorpe-st-andrew.norfolk.sch.uk and your email will be passed on to the relevant BEST.

1	08:26	UnAuthorised Absent
1	08:26	UnAuthorised Absent
2	09:35	Present

Attendance Marks during our Testing Period - It is possible that students will miss online lessons while they are in school for their tests. Teachers will mark anyone missing from their lessons as "absent", and this will show on My Child at School as an "Unauthorised absence".

Please be reassured that we are not going to treat any absences from individual lessons during the testing process as "unauthorised". We are working hard to update the registers to reflect students' participation in the testing process.

Notice to Parents of Year 11 and Year 13 students - There has been no announcement on an official leave date for these students. Please do not make any arrangements.

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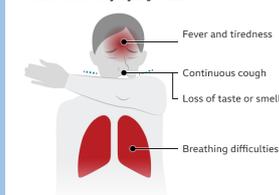
#weAREbackstronger

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Remote Learning on our Return Students have worked very hard and engaged in their learning during lockdown and we cannot wait to see them again. Students will be issued with paper copies of their timetable on Wednesday 10 March 2021 in their form time. Parents can view their child's timetable on My Child at School.

As our curriculum continues in school it is important that we are fully prepared for the possibility that an individual student or small group of students may need to self isolate due to COVID 19.

Coronavirus: Key symptoms



If any student experiences symptoms of COVID-19 they **MUST NOT** attend school until they have had a negative test. Please follow the [LINK](#) for COVID-19 symptoms and what you will need to do.

If a student needs to self-isolate at home we will follow our planned remote learning procedure as detailed below.

In the event of an individual, a group of students or a whole bubble/year group having to isolate, work will be set remotely. When this happens we will:

- Set all work remotely to be completed on the **Google Classroom**.
- Use lessons from the [Oak National Academy](#) (The online academy set up by the government and subject experts).
- Record lessons where appropriate and upload them onto Google Classroom.
- Provide PDFs, PowerPoints or narrated lessons and worksheets to support learning as appropriate.

Dependent on the year group and subject there will be a blended approach to this and your child will receive their learning in a variety of ways. The work will be set promptly on **Google Classroom** and follow the planned curriculum to ensure that no learning time is lost and when your child returns to school, they will be where they should be in terms of their progress.

If students are self-isolating at home and are **well**, they should follow their normal timetable and access work via Google Classroom. They can communicate with their teachers and submit work via the relevant classroom. Please be aware that subject teachers will be following their normal timetable in school and are unlikely to be able to contact students until the end of the school day.

It is therefore important that students return to school **immediately** following a negative COVID-19 test.

At the current time we are not recalling laptops and chrome books that Years 8 to 11 students have been loaned by the school during the period of school closure. This is to ensure that all students can access the remote learning provision if they have to self-isolate and stay at home. They will also be very useful to access homework, finish classwork and ensure all students are fully engaged in their learning.

Are you entitled to free school meals? If your circumstances have changed and you are not sure if you are entitled to Free School Meals, please use the checker and application tool below.

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/education-and-learning/schools/school-meals-and-milk>

Free School Meal Provision - The voucher scheme stops on Friday 5 March 2021. Normal FSM provision on site will resume from Wednesday 10 March 2021.

FSM students who attend provision on Monday 8 March 2021 and Tuesday 9 March 2021 will be catered for.

Free School Meals/Sixth Form Bursary over the Easter Holiday - Norfolk County Council will be providing free school meal vouchers over the Easter holiday through the school. You will receive the electronic vouchers in the same way as before, £15 per student per week of the holiday.

Food/Recipe Box and Activity Boxes for Free School Meal families for the Easter Holidays - This is available to provide food box and activities for eligible students. The recipe boxes are provided by PinkOrange and include activities to do over the Easter holidays. Please apply by Friday 12 March 2021. You can text the words "Big Norfolk" to 07553 894233 and a member of the team will call you back or click on this [link](#).

After School Clubs - Due to Government guidance, while in National Lockdown there will be no after school clubs until Easter. We hope to be able to restart these after Easter and will keep you updated.

All intervention and tutoring sessions linked to the Academic Curriculum that have been running throughout this term will continue until Easter.

Some new expectations when we return to school:

Face coverings must be worn all day (except when eating in a designated area or on the field).

Please remember to wash your hands regularly.

Keep 2 metres apart.

Go outside between lessons.



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Mental Health and Well-being - Following the huge engagement and success of our 'Well-being Day', we surveyed our students about their experiences of the day and their thoughts on what we could do to support well-being in the school. This has contributed to a support plan that will be in place for our students as #weAREbackstronger.

In addition to this, all students have also been surveyed through Form Time this week asking them how they feel about coming back to school. A follow up to their main concerns will be addressed by their Head of Year in assembly. Well-being check in calls will also be made to students prior to their return for those who expressed a wish for this through the survey.

Our well-being programme over the coming weeks:

- All staff have received training this week on well-being and will be vigilantly looking out for well-being needs in their students.
- All students will be encouraged to share their concerns and worries with staff and to seek support if required.
- A reminder of services students can access for Well-being support.
- Well-being is a strong focus of our induction on Wednesday.
- Assemblies focusing on keeping mentally well on subjects including reflection, acceptance, healthy sleep, e-safety, health and relationships.

Duty staff will be making mini 'check ins' with students to support well-being during lesson change overs, breaks and lunchtimes.

During lock down, BEST and the Raising Achievement Team have been very busy making contact with every student to do a well-being check in. These check ins became more frequent for those students who wished for more regular and sometimes daily contact. For those we were particularly concerned about we carried out door step visits. This included those who expressed well-being concerns and those who we considered to be more vulnerable. Those check ins will continue over the coming weeks until we are sure that our students are settled back into school.

In addition to the Well-being Focus for All, we recognise that some of our students require more support than others. As always our offer of support will be in place and this will include:

- One to one mentoring, Wishes and Feelings assessments, Well-being groups and Referrals to outside agency support.

If you are concerned about the well-being of your child and would like further support, please email the school on office@thorpe-st-andrew.norfolk.sch.uk and your email will be directed to the relevant BEST for your child's year group.

There is also lots of information on the school website regarding various agencies you can go to for support:

<https://thorpestandrewschool.org.uk/parents/wellbeing/>
<https://thorpestandrewschool.org.uk/parents/safeguarding/>

Social Time in School - On return to school, in order to support social distancing and reduce the need for self-isolating as a result of close contact with a positive case, students will be asked to identify six friends who they can be in close contact with during social times in school. They need to follow the 2 metre Social Distance Guidance with others at all times.

Essential Equipment: In order to assist us in minimizing the risk of infection, please ensure your child is only bringing essential items into school which must include:

Required every day: Filled Water Bottle, Black Pen, Pencil, Eraser, Ruler, Highlighter Pens, Glue Stick, A pair of scissors, A packet of tissues

For Mathematics and Science lessons: Protractor, Compass, Calculator

Optional Equipment: Coloured pencils, Coloured pens For Technology lessons: Apron.

Catering - School will be operating as normal with hot and cold food and snacks at break and lunchtimes. We are operating a cashless service and therefore money needs to be uploaded to ParentPay.

Travel to and From School - We remain in a National Lockdown situation and ask all students to travel to school as per the National Guidance.

Students will be asked who they travel to school with. This will be walking with one other person only as per the National Lockdown regulations. We ask all students who travel by car to travel with household members only, please do not car share.

School transport will be running as normal from Wednesday 10 March 2021.

Please follow this [LINK](#) for more information.

Protective Measures - The school has implemented a wide range of protective measures to keep our students and staff safe upon their return to school. Our Risk Assessment summary has been updated and is available via [LINK](#).

Safeguarding - For our safeguarding update please follow this [LINK](#).

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Attendance from Wednesday 10 March 2021 - We are really looking forward to welcoming our students back from Wednesday. It is important that we establish good attendance patterns again after such a long period of online learning. Over a "normal" year, we would expect a student to attend 190 days and absence from lessons has an impact both on learning and on the references that we write for individual students.



We will be going back to our standard registration system where teachers will register students that are present in their classrooms. Student absence will also be treated with our normal processes and we will work with students who fall below the 95% attendance threshold to help them to improve.

We anticipate that students will be absent from school **only** if:

- ◆ They have been told explicitly that they are "clinically extremely vulnerable" and have a letter from the Government directing them to "shield" until the 31 March 2021.
- ◆ They have been told by a doctor that they are not fit to come to school and there is medical evidence to support this.
- ◆ They are ill and unable to come to school.
If any of these three situations apply, please contact Mrs Buxton on 01603 497722 and be ready to email copies of any evidence so that we can keep accurate attendance records.
- ◆ They have tested positive, or have been in contact with someone who has tested positive, for COVID19.

Please report a positive test via trackandtrace-tsa@yare-edu.org.uk

Work will continue to be available online via the Google Classrooms, but without the face to face live lessons.

Please contact your child's Head of Year if you have any concerns. We are really looking forward to welcoming all our students back into their classrooms.

After School Clubs - The Department of Education has also issued guidance for parents and carers, please access via this [LINK](#).

At these times it is good to see students attending outside school clubs. The Government advice is that you limit the range of clubs your children attend and check they are operating in a COVID-19 secure manner.

Cooking in DT Lessons - Students will NOT be able to leave perishable goods in the fridges or pick up dishes after their lessons as DT is a multi year use building. Please provide students with an insulated bag to carry perishable ingredients in and transport completed dishes at the end of the lesson. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

Parking - Please can we ask all parents to use our Park and Stride scheme to pick up students from the car park or Fitzmaurice Pavilion or Thorpe Recreation Ground. Due to the Year Schools set up and buses picking up from the gates, it is even more congested on the roads around the school. There are significant health and safety concerns for students with so many cars and the potential for damage to cars. Please can we remind Sixth Form Students to park with consideration and park legally.

Please be reminded that gates will be locked at 8.30 am and students arriving late will need to ring the number on the gate to be let in.

Thank you for your continued support during these different times. We appreciate all your efforts, support and really look forward to seeing everybody next Wednesday.

If you have any queries please contact office@thorpe-st-andrew.norfolk.sch.uk.