



Allfoxton Road  
Horfield  
Bristol  
BS7 9NL  
Tel: 0117 952 7100  
[www.fairfield.excalibur.org.uk](http://www.fairfield.excalibur.org.uk)  
enquiries@fairfield.excalibur.org.uk  
Twitter @FHSBristol  
Fairfield High School – FHS

## Principals Update: Return to School - Week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March

Dear Parents and Carers

You will be aware that the Prime Minister has announced that students can return to school on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Full guidance has been published for schools and I am sharing that with you via this

link:[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/963509/Schools\\_coronavirus\\_operational\\_guidance.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/963509/Schools_coronavirus_operational_guidance.pdf)

We will need to read the guidance carefully as we plan for re-opening, but it seems from first reading that most of the guidance is that same as was previously in place for schools.

I have noticed two important points that we will want to consider as we plan for reopening. These are listed briefly below.

- 1) Facemasks should be worn in classrooms as well as communal areas and corridors (with exception in place on medical grounds or to aid communication)
- 2) Lateral Flow Device Testing should take place in school three times in the first two weeks, where we have permission to do so and once at home, with twice weekly testing happening at home after that. Schools can phase return to school to allow the testing to happen.

Clearly, point two is the part we will need to prepare our planning for and I will update you once that has been completed and we have read the document fully.

As we consider return to school, I have said to staff and will say to students that our priorities will be safety, wellbeing and supporting students to progress from where they are now but I will say more on that in other newsletters.

Best wishes

Nick Lewis – Principal

### An International Academy

Principal: **Mr Nick Lewis**  
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