

31 March 2021



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Fairfield High School – FHS

Dear Parents and Carers,

Update on supply of home testing kits, reporting test results to NHS / School, reporting COVID cases over Easter and uniform requirements after Easter.

Supply of home testing kits

Before the end of term additional home testing kits will be supplied to students to support COVID testing at home. As with all the testing we have done, completion of the test will only happen with parental consent. Please ensure that students continue to test over the Easter Holidays. I would ask that families ensure students complete and report a test withing 48 hours of return to school, so test on Saturday 17th or Sunday 18th April.

The fact that we had no positive results on return to school this term has really helped reassure many staff, students, and parents and I would like to start next term with the same level of confidence, giving us the best chance of being COVID free.

Reporting test results

Please ensure that all test results whether negative, void or positive are reported to the NHS and to school. We have seen a decline in the number of results being reported to us via the Parent Mail form, we understand the challenges of home testing and double reporting of results, but the measures are helping keep the school COVID free. As requested above please keep reporting results over the Easter Holiday period.

Easter Holidays – How do I report a COVID case over the holidays?

As you will be aware from my last letter, the government has asked school leaders to continue to Track and Trace for positive student cases in the Easter holidays, for six days after the last day of students being in school. After that point, contact tracing will be handled by NHS Track and Trace until the new term starts on 19th April. Below is a table setting out who you should contact on which date:

Date:	Who do I inform?
From 01/04/2021 to 06/04/2021 Inform School	Email: response@fairfield.excalibur.org.uk This will be checked each day between 9 am and 10am until Wednesday 6th April . Parents of any close contacts only will be informed by parent mail. Please do not phone in to school to report positive cases, use the above email address.
07/04/2021 -18/04/2021 Use NHS Track and Trace	From Thursday 7th April service will be provided by NHS Track and Trace who will seek contacts directly from positive cases. <u>Do not inform school via response email</u>
19/04/2021 onwards Inform School	Normal service resumes in school and we can be informed via reception or our absence line.

Uniform expectations after Easter

As we move into the Summer Terms, we have reviewed the adjustments that were made to uniform for COVID in the Winter. Details of this will follow in a separate Parent Mail but essentially we will be requiring all students to be wearing full uniform in line with our policy – details of which can be found here [Uniform - Fairfield High School \(excalibur.org.uk\)](http://excalibur.org.uk) .

The most significant change will be that students will no longer be able to wear coats and non-uniform hoodies in class. We will continue to allow students to wear PE uniform on the days they have PE.

We understand families (and students) will appreciate plenty of time to get ready for this change hence the early notice. Uniform jumpers, skirts, and trousers may no longer fit, and this two-week period allows time for purchases to be made. We can sign-post families to financial support should that be required - please contact school before our return if that is the case. In the short term we carry a small supply of all uniform items in school so that no one need be seen to be out of uniform. Students are aware of how to access these supplies if required.

Return to school

A reminder that school returns on Monday 19th April. Students should arrive to school for 8.30am, with formal registration starting at 8.45am. Students will require their usual equipment but are reminded to have plenty of drinking water to help with hydration. They will also still be required to wear face masks and will need a spare, should one become lost.

Ramadan

Next term, Muslim students, staff and families will be fasting during Ramadan, which commences on about April 12th. Many will be studying or supporting preparations for Year 11 assessments and so, it is important that if is the case, students should eat and hydrate well at sunset and sunrise, focus energies for study on the most productive times and rest and conserve energy at other times.

If students feel unwell, they should inform the nearest member of staff as we are aware that fasting should only happen if you are fit and well and we would want to support them to recovery.

Thinking ahead ...

As the UK moves through the “Unlocking Roadmap”, we are expecting a range of announcements about changes to guidance for schools and additional freedoms will be returned to us. The first of these that we will see is the return of group sports. This means that we can play organized sports in school but also that community groups can once again book our fantastic outdoor sports facilities.

We are also expecting mask wearing in classrooms to be reviewed over Easter but are not aware of the outcome of that review at this stage. I will update you once we have received full details.

Even further ahead, we are hopeful that trip planning will be allowed to commence for events either this academic year or for September onwards. We also hope to be able to look forward to hosting community events again.

Best wishes and a restful break.

Nick Lewis

Principal

An International Academy

Principal: **Mr Nick Lewis**

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