

2 March 2021

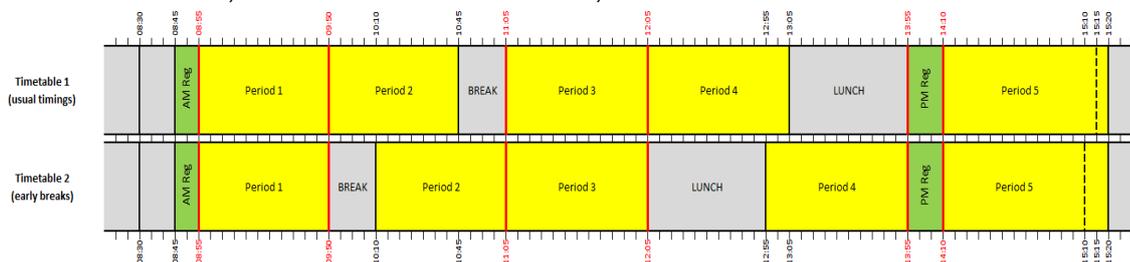
Dear students, parents and carers,

I am writing to provide an update on plans for return to in-school learning from March 8, following the information shared earlier this week.

Students have been great at adapting to and adopting the safety measures we have put in place since the start of the academic year. Here are some key reminders as they return:

We continue to run a **split timetable** to reduce traffic around the school site, manage social spaces and maintain bubbles and zones.

- Years 8, 10, 12 and 13 follow timetable 1, the 'usual' model.
- Years 7, 9 and 11 follow timetable 2, with earlier break and lunchtime.



Staggered start times will continue for all year groups. Week beginning Monday 8 March is a Week B.

- Years 7, 9 and 11 should arrive and go to their Form room by 8.30
- Years 8, 10, 12 and 13 should arrive at 8.30 and wait in their playground zone until the bell goes.
- These timings will swap over for Week A.

Staggered finish times will continue for all year groups. These are fixed:

- Year 7 and 9 leave at 3.10
- Year 8 and 10 leave at 3.15
- Year 11, 12 and 13 leave at 3.20
- Students travelling by bus will be dismissed at the appropriate time.
- Students should leave the site as soon as they are dismissed to allow us to maintain social distancing through year group bubbles.

Hands, face, space remain vital to protect everyone in our school community

- Enhanced cleaning measures remain in place in classrooms and communal areas.
- Extra outdoor sinks and hand sanitiser stations remain in place around the school for regular use by students.
- It would greatly support good hygiene if students bring their own hand sanitiser.
- Washing hands more frequently and for 20 seconds remains a vital control measure.
- Students should bring the equipment they need for each day, to eliminate borrowing.
- Students will wear facemasks in lessons, corridors and communal areas (including queuing in the canteen and for the tuck shop) unless they are exempt. This follows government guidance, reflects everyone's experience in the wider world and is an important step to protect other people.
- Every student has been given a Larkmead mask to supplement their own supply. If a student needs a spare mask, then they will be issued with a Larkmead mask and parents will be charged.

- Students should remember the important hygiene advice over how to wear and remove their mask.
- Face masks continue to be compulsory on public transport and school transport.
- Students should continue to follow the one-way system, queuing times for lunch and the zones on the playground and field.
- Students mixing bubbles put other students at risk and may be sent home.
- All of these steps enable us to maintain year group bubbles, greatly reducing the impact of any self-isolation that is required if we have a positive case in school.
- Ventilation in classrooms and other areas remains important. This may mean that classrooms will feel cold, so students should dress appropriately. They will be able to wear coats in classrooms if necessary.
- We are so proud of how Larkmead students have looked out for each other, their friends and families by following these clear expectations. On the rare occasions when a student doesn't meet these shared standards and potentially puts other people at risk we continue to follow the enhanced COVID-19 behaviour policy, which includes students being sent home if they don't comply with instructions.

School uniform

- Normal school uniform should be worn including the school tie.
- We will move to summer uniform in Term 5.
- If students have PE or Dance, we are happy for them to wear the school PE/Dance uniform all day to reduce the need to use changing rooms. Please note that we cannot guarantee that students will not get wet or dirty so it may be wise to bring a change of school uniform.
- We appreciate that some children will have grown since they were last in school. If your child is awaiting new uniform or shoes, then please let us know.
- Normal rules over mobile phones apply.
- Students should bring the drinking water they need for the day.
- School catering serve cold food and jacket potatoes on March 8 and 9, resuming normal service on Wednesday 10 March

We understand that students may be feeling anxious as well as excited about the return to school. Following our shared expectations and rules supports everyone in our community, students and their families, and will enable us to welcome everyone back safely.

Best wishes



Jonathan Dennett
Headteacher

