

Dear parents and carers,

We were delighted to receive the news on Monday that students will begin returning to schools in England from March 8<sup>th</sup>. Since then we have been working on our plans for the wider re-opening of UCC. There has been a huge amount to consider as there are so many factors and variable involved. Therefore, rather than rushing a plan out at an earlier point this week, we have taken a bit more time to work out the most effective way to get our students back into school as quickly and safely as possible. There is a lot of information to digest in this bulletin, so please take the time to read through everything carefully.

## Testing

Our logistical challenge has been planning how to safely test 900 students, whilst keeping them apart so that students can return to school following their first negative test. This planned approach will prevent those unknowingly carrying COVID 19 from transmitting it to other students, staff or spreading it to the wider community. Lateral Flow Testing is an additional risk mitigation step to ensure asymptomatic cases are identified before they start attending face to face lessons so that we reduce the number of students and staff contacts who need to isolate. Therefore it is critical that we all support one another by consenting to students being tested to keep our community safe.

Initially, students will only come into school on their designated testing day at an appointed time to undertake a test – this will be organised in tutor groups. Once tested they will then immediately return home. To do this we will be relying on parents/carers transporting students into school for the test to avoid any mingling with others. Once the first test has been completed, students will return home. If the test result is positive or void then you will be contacted by the testing team otherwise please presume it is negative. If you do not receive a phone call your child will be able to return to school on their designated return day. The testing and return to lessons dates can be found in the summary timetable below.

	Thurs	Fri	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Mon	Tues
	04/03/21	05/03/21	08/03/21	09/03/21	10/03/21	11/03/21	12/03/21	15/03/21	16/03/21
<b>Test 1*</b>	Y11	Y10	Y9	Y7	Y8				
<b>Test 2</b>			Y11	Y10		Y7 & Y9	Y8		
<b>Test 3</b>					Y11		Y10	Y7 & Y9	Y8
<b>Face to face teaching in school</b>			Y11,10	Y11, 10, 9	Y11, 10, 9, 7	Y11, 10, 9, 8, 7	Y11, 10, 9, 8, 7	Y11, 10, 9, 8, 7	Y11, 10, 9, 8, 7
<b>Remote Learning**</b>	Y7, 8, 9, 10, 11	Y7, 8, 9, 10, 11	Y9, 8, 7	Y8, 7	Y8	Remote learning ceases, other than for students who are self-isolating.			

NB  
 \*Test 1 – students should come into school for their test and then return home immediately, mixing with no-one outside of their household  
 \*\*Remote Learning – on the days when students are taking 'Test 1' there will be only 'On Demand' resources provided by teachers, with no live lessons for that particular year group

There is a lot of information in the table above, so there is a summary of the arrangements below for each year group:

### Year 11

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March** - Students should come into school at the designated time for their tutor group and complete a test before going straight home

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March** – Students return to face to face teaching in school

## Year 10

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March** - Students should come into school at the designated time for their tutor group and complete a test before going straight home

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March** – Students return to face to face teaching in school

## Year 9

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March** - Students should come into school at the designated time for their tutor group and complete a test before going straight home

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March** - Students return to face to face teaching in school

## Year 7

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March** - Students should come into school at the designated time for their tutor group and complete a test before going straight home

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** - Students return to face to face teaching in school

## Year 8

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March** - Students should come into school at the designated time for their tutor group and complete a test before going straight home

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March** - Students return to face to face teaching in school

## Testing timetable slots for each year group can be found below

Time	Thursday March 4th	Friday March 5th	
9.00-10.00	11TLW	10MI	
10.00-11.00	11RR	10ZF	
11.20-12.20	11LC	10TF	
12.20- 1.20	1JAH	10JLB	
1.40 - 2.15	11KR	10TB	
2.15-3.00	11LR	10FLB	
Time	Monday March 8th	Tuesday March 9th	Wednesday March 10th
11.50-12.20	9ST	7CN	8NS
12.20-12.50	9RJS	7AL	8MS
12.50-1.20	9AJ	7KK	8TM
1.40-2.00	9JD	7ZH	8GK
2.00-2.30	9SAB	7JMH	8SJ
2.30-3.00	9ABr	7DE	8NH

**Key Worker Provision** – these students have been participating in testing whilst in school throughout this week. From 8<sup>th</sup> March they will follow their normal timetable in school. This means that teaching staff will be expected to teach these students alongside their remote teaching responsibilities for year groups that have not yet returned.

## **Other key points to be aware of regarding testing**

- Testing will be self-administered by students supported carefully by our trained and experienced staff.
- This will familiarise students with how to self-swab properly in a supervised safe setting in school.
- Once students have completed three Lateral Flow Tests, 3-5 days apart they will transition to home testing.
- More details on home testing and home test kits will follow once students are back in school.
- If you have not yet provided consent then please complete the form [here](#)
- Students MUST wear a face mask when they arrive at school for their first test (unless exempt on medical grounds).
- For the first test school uniform is not required as students will be returning home immediately after their test.

## **Volunteers required**

Our in-school testing team have done a magnificent job in creating our Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS). The ATS has a crucial role to play in our students returning to school. We are looking for more volunteers to support our ATS team over the next 2 weeks - if you or anyone you know might be interested, please direct them to our website: <https://www.uppinghamcollege.org.uk/news/?pid=125&nid=5&storyid=284>

## **Whole school approach**
















All of the media headlines about 'catch-up', 'lost learning' etc are deeply unhelpful and we have an important role to play in not making this some kind of self-fulfilling prophecy of doom for our students. Yes, they have missed a lot of school, and yes, we know that regardless of the quality of our remote provision we cannot replicate the impact of excellent face-to-face teaching. Therefore, I have asked staff to all have a number of key points in mind when students return:

- teach students as well as you possibly can do and reignite a love of learning with all your classes
- use positive language and be relentlessly optimistic with them
- be empathetic and understanding in your approaches, but insist on high standards and high expectations
- supporting the wellbeing of our students is important and we should treat them all as individuals. We should not make assumptions about how they have been affected by the lockdown and listen to them about their individual concerns when they wish to talk to us.

## **GCSE qualifications**

The [press release](#) from yesterday outlined how GCSEs will be awarded this summer. 'Fairness and flexibility' for schools and students is the tag line for this announcement and this means that we will have some autonomy in the process we use to generate evidence that is as valid and reliable as possible so that we award appropriate grades. Schools will have to submit grades on June 18<sup>th</sup> and the results day will be 12<sup>th</sup> August. Our focus for Year 11 will be on *teaching* not *testing* when we return. There will be assessments conducted between now and the end of May, but these will be carefully planned and communicated so that students are very clear on what they will be assessed on and when. It is important that Year 11 continue to work diligently throughout next week on their remote learning and then apply themselves fully when we return to school. The graphic below from Ofqual provides a useful summary of the national guidance schools will be following.

# How GCSEs, AS and A levels will be awarded in summer 2021

Working out your grade	Evidence	Results and appeals
 Graded by teacher judgement	 Mocks, tests and work already done can be used as evidence	 <b>Results days</b> AS and A level 10 August GCSE 12 August
 Not graded by an algorithm	 Non-exam assessment should continue	 If you're unhappy with your grade, you can appeal it. First step is to submit an appeal to your school or college.
 School and college assessments can continue	 Non-exam assessments can be used as evidence even if incomplete	<p>You can find out more details from your school, college or exam board, or by visiting the Ofqual website</p>  <a href="http://www.gov.uk/ofqual">www.gov.uk/ofqual</a>
 You'll only be assessed on what you've been taught	 Art & design grade based only on your portfolio	
 Your teacher will tell you what evidence is used to grade you	 Teachers can use question banks provided by exam boards if they want to	
 Private candidates to work with a school, college or exam centre to provide evidence for them to be graded	 Results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best	

There is a very good chance that I will be writing to you again with further updates during next week. There will also be specific communications regarding the arrangements for students coming into school for their first Lateral Flow Test so that parents are aware of how this process will work.

Take care, stay safe and have a good weekend.

Ben