

# LGS Headlines

## 26 February 2021



Dear Parents

So now we know what is happening.....

The Government has announced that schools will reopen to all pupils and students from 8th March, with some flexibility for secondary schools to phase the return of students during that week.

In this edition of Headlines you will find the main details you need to know about the phased return. This will be followed by some more detailed documentation next week, similar to that used at previous stages.

We are obviously pleased and relieved that there is clarity about how students are going to be returning, and what the expectations are in terms of the system of infection controls. It is important the students realise that they are coming back broadly into the same situation they were in during the autumn term, with similar control measures. It is not 'back to normal' just yet.

Infection rates are still high nationally, and locally in Slough and West London boroughs they remain higher than average. It is essential that *everyone* continues to follow the restrictions that are in place; one of the reasons these restrictions remain is so that schools can be reopened. The Government is prioritising education ahead of opening up other sectors of society.

I am sure we are all encouraged by the rollout of the vaccination programme and the media coverage of the levels of protection against serious illness which are being seen. We would strongly encourage everyone to take up the offer of vaccination; however, it is important to remember that no vaccine is 100% effective for any illness and that precautions such as social distancing will still be needed for the time being, as we are being advised.

I will write next week with further details about the return to school. In the meantime I hope that we can all start to view the next few months with optimism as we see the situation improving nationally and we begin those first steps back towards 'normality' - beginning with reopening our classrooms for your sons and daughters.

With my best wishes to you and your families.

**Mr J Constable - Headteacher**

**The best way to contact us during the school closure period is to email [school@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:school@lgs.slough.sch.uk).**

**Your query will be passed on to the most appropriate member of staff.**

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Please visit our website at

**[www.lgs.slough.sch.uk](http://www.lgs.slough.sch.uk)**

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# School reopening

## What has the Government announced?

On Monday of this week, the Government announced that primary and secondary school pupils would return to school for face to face teaching from Monday 8th March.

In secondary schools, students will be offered three Covid tests, using lateral flow testing devices, three to five days apart over the first two weeks back. The tests are intended to detect cases of coronavirus where a student may be carrying enough virus to be infectious, but is not displaying any symptoms. Any such cases can be quickly identified and students asked to self-isolate rather than remain in school. Taking the tests is not compulsory, but is strongly encouraged. After the first three tests in school, students will be offered lateral flow tests to take at home.

## So when will students actually return to school?

Some phasing of the return to school is allowed over that first week, to allow schools to put the testing process in place. We have decided to bring students back in to school on the following days:

Day	Year groups returning to school in school	Year groups learning at home
<b>Monday 8th March</b>	Year 11 and Year 13	Years 7-10 and Year 12
<b>Tuesday 9th March</b>	Year 10 and Year 12	Years 7, 8 and 9
<b>Wednesday 10th March</b>	Year 8 and Year 9	Year 7
<b>Thursday 11th March</b>	Year 7	
<b>Friday 12th March</b>	All year groups now back	

When students return to school, they will go immediately to registration and then normal lessons. They will then be withdrawn from lessons during the day to take the lateral flow tests if they have chosen to do so. The second and third tests will take place a few days later for each year group; for example, Year 11 will probably be offered their second test on Thursday 11th March, two further year groups have their second test on Friday 12th March, and so on through the following week.

## What will school be like?

Students will be returning to a very similar situation to the autumn term. The Government guidance requires us to implement a system of controls similar to that in the last term; this includes keeping year groups separated as far as possible, using base rooms for as many lessons as possible, and staggering the break and lunch times. There will also be the same separated social zones and catering arrangements.

There are some changes to the guidance which are important. For example, there is an increased emphasis on good hand hygiene, washing hands or using sanitiser when arriving on site, when returning from breaks, before eating, and when changing rooms. As in the Autumn term, we will ensure that the appropriate control measures are all in place and staff will be asked to ensure that students follow the procedures.



# School reopening

## What about face coverings?

In the autumn term, we asked students to wear face coverings on site, removing them in classrooms for lessons or when eating.

From 8th March, the **Government is recommending that face coverings are worn indoors in all situations where social distancing cannot be guaranteed**. This includes in classrooms for lessons. We have therefore decided that:

- ⇒ Students must wear face coverings when they are inside any school building, including in lessons.
- ⇒ Where the wearing of face coverings is impractical or inappropriate, for example, in PE or some practical subjects, students will be able to remove them.
- ⇒ Students will be able to remove face coverings when outdoors. The scientific evidence is that the risk of virus transmission is significantly reduced outside.

As in the Autumn term, we ask that students bring **reusable face coverings** and not paper ones as they may be putting them on and taking them off several times each day. They should have more than one so that a clean covering can be used each day.

## What happens to students while they are waiting to come back in?

As we bring students back into school, they will resume face-to-face teaching in classrooms as set out in the timetable. For those students who are still at home on Monday 8th, Tuesday 9th or Wednesday 10th March, remote learning will be provided as it is now. Teachers will run online lessons in the same way they are currently doing, and students will be expected to attend. The timetable structure will continue for home learning, but the lesson timings will change to align them with the timings for face-to-face lessons back in school.

Students will be given full details of the timings of the school day from 8th March next week.

## What happens if you find Covid cases in school?

As in the Autumn term, it is possible that we may have cases of Covid confirmed in school. This may be because a student develops symptoms, goes for a test and then gets a positive result, or asymptomatic testing reveals positive cases who are not displaying symptoms.

Where positive cases are identified, the students will be asked to self isolate immediately in line with public health guidance. Close contacts will be identified from seating plans will also be asked to self isolate. Remote learning will be provided for those asked to self isolate, as happened in the autumn term.

## Do students have to come back to school?

Yes. During the lockdown, the legal requirement for children to attend school was suspended. This is being reversed and from Monday 8th March, **the legal requirement is for children to be back in school**. The school has no authority to authorise any absence apart from specifically define reasons such as illness, or a requirement to remain at home because of association with a positive Covid case. Parents may have understandable concerns about the return and we are happy to discuss these to provide reassurance.



# Lateral flow testing

## What is the purpose of the testing?

Testing is important because staff and students without symptoms could be carrying the virus and may spread it to others. Testing staff and students without symptoms will support schools to operate as safely as possible.

Simple and quick tests, known as Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests, enable us to rapidly test students and staff, without the need for a laboratory. The tests return a result within 30 minutes. All secondary schools have been provided with test kits to conduct testing on site by setting up an Asymptomatic Test Site (AST).

## How good are the tests?

There has been a lot of media coverage about the 'accuracy' of the lateral flow test devices. The Covid tests which many of you will have had by booking a slot at a local testing centre are known as PCR tests. They can detect extremely small traces of the virus, and can return a positive result even when there is little risk of someone actually passing the virus on.

The Lateral Flow Devices (LFDs) used in school will not detect very small viral loads. However, they can detect cases where someone is carrying the virus at a level which might mean they are infectious. Every positive Covid case detected by LFDs is a case that would not otherwise have been discovered until symptoms were obvious and the risk of transmission was higher.

So, it is important to remember:

- ⇒ A negative test result does not mean that someone is free of the virus. It simply means that at that particular time, the test did not detect any significant viral load.
- ⇒ A positive test result is highly likely to indicate that someone is carrying enough viral load to be infectious.

LFDs are widely used in many workforces, including the NHS, for screening programmes where workers are given supplies of tests to carry out at home.

## What does the test involve?

The test involves swabbing tonsils at the back of the throat and one nostril and processing the swab with the Lateral Flow Device (LFD).

Students will go to our Asymptomatic Test Site (located in the new teaching block) where they will carry out the swabbing themselves under supervision - this takes just a minute or two. They then pass the swab to a member of the team for processing.

The team record the result and upload this to the NHS database. The students will have registered themselves on the database before taking the test - this can be done on an iPad or mobile phone. They will receive the result as an email and/or text message.



***If any student's test returns a positive result, they will be spoken to by a member of staff and parents contacted before the result is uploaded to the NHS database. The student will need to go straight home to self isolate. We will also ask any close contacts to self-isolate.***





# Updates

## Online attendance

We have been very impressed by the level of attendance of students at online lessons. The following comment from one of our teachers exemplifies this.....

*"Attendance has been brilliant throughout our time on line with lesson after lesson after lesson less getting 100% attendance!"*

Well done to the students, and to our staff for motivating them to attend the lessons!

## CyberFirst Girls' Competition 2021

Congratulations again to our team 'Did it for the Cookies' who are competing in the South East regional semi-final of the CyberFirst Competition on 21st March.

The semi-final will consist of the top teams from the qualifier-round from all over the United Kingdom and will be hosted online with teams competing simultaneously from their school or home locations across regions in England and in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

LGS is one of 20 schools to have made it to the South East semi-final. The top team from each of the five regions in England, and one team from Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland will then be invited to the Competition Grand Final.



## Aquaro water bottles

Aquaro is our school Young Enterprise Team, made up Year 12 students.

We provide biodegradable water bottles made of wheat, as our collective aims are to help the local community by reducing plastic waste, one bottle at a time!

Unlike the plastic water bottles many may use, our bottle has no negative impacts on the environment, as it is made up of solely biodegrade biomaterials, with 0% plastic or PVC!

If you are interested in finding out more and would like to make a long lasting impact on the local environment you may contact us here:

On Instagram at.....

<https://instagram.com/aquarobottles?igshid=17flhla6u5o9q>

Our product site is at ....

<https://www.ye-tradingstation.org.uk/product/biodegradable-wheat-water-bottle>





# National Careers Week

***National Careers Week is a whole week of virtual events, from 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> March 2021.***

This is the first year they have offered a virtual careers fair, designed to feel like a visit to a multi-floor exhibition centre!

**[www.ncw2021.co.uk](http://www.ncw2021.co.uk)** contains all the relevant information and resources to help students and parents get the most out of the week.

We invite you to take advantage of this fantastic opportunity, and if possible, take some time to explore the virtual fair with your sons and daughters. This could be especially useful for Year 9 students to support the options process; for Years 10 and 11 when considering post-16 pathways; Years 12 and 13 with post-18 choices; and for Years 7 and 8 to engage with the breadth and variety of possibilities for their future.

I would be really interested in any feedback from your experience of the Virtual Careers Fair – please contact me at school via [felicitynorthcott@lgs.slough.sch.uk](mailto:felicitynorthcott@lgs.slough.sch.uk).

**YOUR TICKET TO:**

## NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK 2021

Take part in the biggest celebration of careers across the United Kingdom...online!

Individual daily themes and bespoke resources from leading employers, including:

- Video clips
- Animations
- Downloadable resources
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**1ST - 6TH MARCH 2021**

**OUR FIRST EVER VIRTUAL Careers Fair.**

- Over 5 virtual floors
- Global employers across key sectors
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- Providing an insight into life within the organisation and an overview of career opportunities

Visit: [www.ncw2021.co.uk](http://www.ncw2021.co.uk)

**NatWest Group**

**10** National Careers Week 2021

**NATIONAL CAREERS WEEK**



*"Embodying the 'responsible and caring' elements of our school ethos, students across year 9 have been working on posters which highlight important social issues, from the Black Lives Matter movement, to the environment and the COVID-19 pandemic. Taking stylistic influence from Pop art and the work of more contemporary artists/activists such as Shepard Fairey and Banksy, students have produced some excellent works of art, highlighting their chosen issue."*





# Remote learning during school closure

## *More comments and examples from our staff this week.....*

*"Year 8 students have been working at home to produce mixed media artworks based on photoshoots of sweets they completed using iPads in the classroom before Christmas. The works are inspired by artists such as Sarah Graham."*

**Ms Stanton, Art**





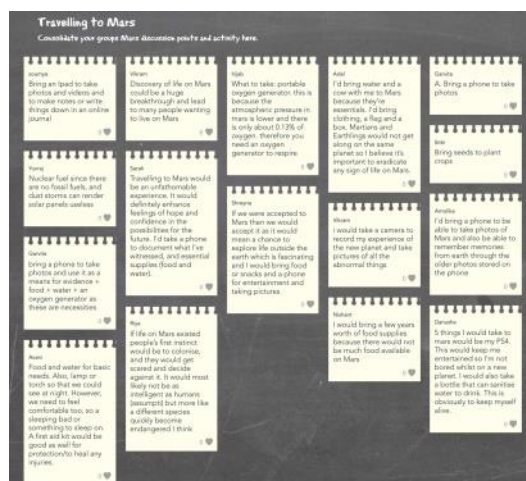


# Remote learning during school closure

## A further selection of this week's comments and examples from our staff .....

*"In my tutor time this morning, students were tasked to think about the Perseverance moon landing and whether they would a) accept the challenge of going to the Moon if offered the opportunity; and b) what would be their list of essential items if they did travel to Mars. We then shared everyone's ideas."*

**Mrs Howard, form tutor**



*"In 6B we have been doing a bit of non-screen 'mindfulness' as a group rather than as individuals! So, I thought I'd just share some of what we've been doing in the last few weeks....."*

*Some of the girls did a crochet/knitting/general needlecraft challenge – they taught themselves from scratch using YouTube etc. and each produced a square of some kind to show the group.*

*Kambiz (Year 12) organised a keepy-uppy challenge for the form – 3 got involved and Kambiz put a video together for us to watch (he ended up being the winner!)*

*This week we're doing a 'Rate your Plate'....the idea is for everyone to make breakfast for themselves/their families on Friday – we are going to eat our breakfasts together and rate everyone's attempts to produce something that actually looks appetising from whatever they've got at home, even if that's just getting creative with toast!"*

**Miss Mawdsley, Sixth Form tutor**

*"As we did last half term, Mrs Probert and I have had another cultural cooking session with Year 13 and one of our Y12 students. We made that French classic, mousse au chocolat. As well as being fun, the students discovered French culinary terms and ended up with some delicious desserts! Language is culture!"*

**Mrs Francis, Modern Languages**



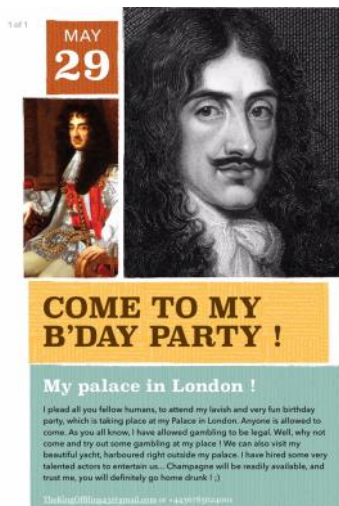
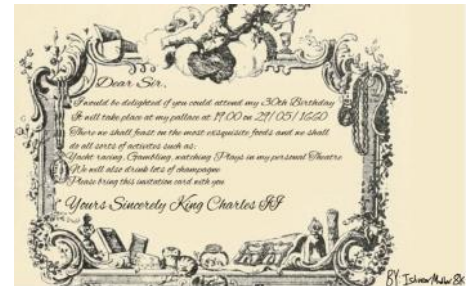


# Remote learning during school closure

## A further selection of this week's comments and examples from our staff .....

"As a light-hearted activity, Year 8 students were asked to design a party invite to Charles II's 30th Birthday! They had to use what they had learned about Restoration London, and Charles' favourite leisure activities in the invite."

Mrs Clark, History



"Year 9 Geographers have been working together in groups to demonstrate their understanding of Glocalisation - the process of rebranding a product so it is more appealing and cost-effective in a local context. For 9K the challenge was to take a UK chocolate bar, and 'glocalise' it for a Middle Eastern country. Students had to research local customs, tastes, materials and make a 4-minute video pitch for why their new chocolate bar should be developed. Having shared them on OneDrive students watched their films this afternoon and provided feedback through Microsoft Forms which can be shared with student next week."

Mr Mace, Geography

