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Wednesday 3 March 2021

### **EGA Plans for full return to school from 8 March 2021**

#### **Assalamu alaikum**

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

I pray that you and your families are well insha'Allah.

I can confirm that we are planning to open the school to all students from Monday 8 March 2021 insha'Allah. We are looking forward to seeing all the children once again but would like to reassure you that the safety of our school community is our utmost priority. We will continue to review the arrangements we have implemented at this stage and update you with any changes as and when we make them.

#### **Covid-19 testing**

As you will be aware, the government require all students to be tested, using the rapid lateral flow tests, before their return to school.

Up to one third of people who have coronavirus are asymptomatic. By testing, we will help to reduce the spread in school settings through asymptomatic transmission. I am therefore strongly encouraging those returning to school to be tested.

To help us keep everyone safe, we'll be offering rapid coronavirus testing to all our pupils as they return from 8 March. Pupils will be asked to take 3 coronavirus tests at school, with 3 to 5 days between each test. Test results will take about 30 minutes to process.

Pupils can return to school after their first negative result. If at any point they test positive, they'll need to self-isolate in line with government guidance.

Testing is voluntary, and you and/or your child will need to give consent for it to be carried out. However, we strongly encourage your child to take part so we can help prevent the spread of coronavirus.

If your child is not participating in testing, they should attend school as usual from Tuesday 9 March.

After the 3 initial tests at school, pupils will be offered coronavirus tests that they should take twice a week at home. Further information will be provided regarding these tests.

On Monday 8 March, we will be carrying out tests in allocated slots as follows:

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Time slot allocated</b>
<b>Year 11</b>	10am – 11-am
<b>Year 9/10</b>	11am – 12pm
<b>Year 8</b>	12pm – 1pm
<b>Year 7</b>	1pm – 2:30pm
<b>KS2</b>	2:30 – 3:30pm

On Monday, students need only attend for their allocated slot and will be asked to be dropped off and collected according to these timings. They do not need to wait for their results as they will be contacted (see information sheet attached). Where siblings are in different year groups, they may attend at either of the time slots and we will do their testing together to prevent multiple journeys for parents.

However, in order for any child to use the tests we need to gain parental consent. Due to the tight turnaround in terms of time and the handling of documents, we are asking parents to read the attached documentation and then provide consent by completing the form electronically. The consent form and information is linked in the email in which you received this letter.

Any child without a registered consent will, unfortunately, be refused testing.

### **Arrangements from Tuesday 9 March**

From Tuesday 9 March, students are expected to arrive to school at the usual time of 9:15am and leave at the usual time of 4:15pm inshaAllah.

School attendance will be mandatory and our usual rules on attendance will apply.

In line with the latest government guidance, pupils who are clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend school. If your child is in this group, they should continue to learn from home until further notice.

For pupils who are self-isolating or shielding, we will continue to provide remote learning and will liaise with parents in arranging this.

### **Maintaining a safe school environment**

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you of the preventative measures the school has put in place in order to minimise the spread of infection.

- We will follow all aspects of government [guidance](#)
- Our Covid-19 Risk assessment is available to view upon request
- Students and staff are still required to wear masks in class and in around the school, unless they are exempt. We will remind students about the safe use of face coverings prior to return
- All lessons will be taught with students staying in the same classroom. This enables us to restrict movement and prevent bubbles crossing
- Windows and doors will be open throughout the building for ventilation. Students may want to wear a jumper under their abaya in cold weather
- Students will continue to line up on the yard at the end of break and lunch so that movement is supervised
- All students will be required to sanitise their hands at the start and end of every lesson

- Enhanced cleaning will be in place during the day for all public areas

As per the current NHS and government advice, you should keep your child at home if they develop coronavirus symptoms for a period of 10 days. The main symptoms include a high temperature, a new, continuous cough and/or a loss of or change in smell and/or taste. Where symptoms continue after 10 days, or begin to worsen, you should call 111. If someone in your child's household has symptoms or your child has had contact with someone who tests positive, your child must self-isolate for 10 days from the day the other person's symptoms started. This is because it can take 10 days for symptoms to appear. More information regarding symptoms and actions can be found on the NHS website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>).

If you think your child may have been exposed to or has coronavirus, please contact the school on 07434547050 or 01782 390807 at the earliest opportunity.

### **Arrangements for the start and end of the school day**

The beginning and end of the school day are the busiest times for children and adults congregating together in one place and maintaining safe distances within normal arrangements can be a challenge. We have implemented the following measures for when pupils return to school:

- Additional staff will be present at the school entrance at the start and end of the school day
- Distance markers will be placed on the yard and throughout the school to encourage students to maintain their distance
- Students will need to stop at a sanitisation station before they enter the school and before they leave each day
- As an extra precaution, the temperature of students may be taken at the start of each day using an infrared thermometer

### **Transport to school**

I am aware that some students travelled to school via a car-share arrangement. Unfortunately, this is no longer advisable therefore it is important that travel arrangements are made individually for students who are not siblings. However, if this is not possible and car-share is the only way students can travel to school, then please take extra precautions by ensuring each child wears a mask for the entire journey, they should have put these on securely before they get in the car, as the risk of transmitting the virus in confined spaces is very high.

### **Arrangements for break times and lunchtimes**

We recognise the importance for all pupils to have a break from learning and to enjoy time outside during the school day. Reconnecting with friends will be an important aspect of pupils settling back into school life.

- Students will be having their lunch in their own classroom at their own desk, washing their hands before and after
- After they have eaten, students will be allowed on to the yard, weather permitting, or in the hall. They will be asked to pray Zuhr Salat class by class at their allocated time
- Markers on the floor will help to ensure that students always maintain their distance
- The corridors will be closely monitored, with a queuing procedure in place for the student toilets to ensure that distance is maintained

- Students will be going outside onto the school playground at break time and lunchtime.

### **The school day**

To minimise the number of pupils and staff assembling for periods of time, we have made the following changes to the school day:

- Classrooms will be laid out according to distancing rules
- Classroom resources will not be shared; all students should bring their own stationary as they will not be allowed to share with other students
- Student exercise books will remain in school; independent learning will be set and marked digitally from now on
- Year groups will remain in their allocated classroom for all their lessons to minimise the number of people on the corridor; teachers will move from class to class as needed.

If you have any queries regarding any of the arrangements mentioned, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

JazakAllah khair for your continued support throughout this difficult time.

Wa salaam

**Samia Haroon**  
**Headteacher**