



Altrincham Grammar School for Boys

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Head Master: Mr G A Wright M.A. (Hons) FRSA

16th April 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Plans for the start of the Summer Term 2021

Term will begin for all year groups on Monday, 19th April. Please do ensure that your son(s) is punctual:

Registration and Form Period for Years 7/9/11/13	08:35
Registration and Form Period for Years 8/10/12	08:45

DFE Guidance, the School environment and Face Coverings

There have been some changes to the DfE's operational guidance that will affect AGSB's activities in the Summer Term 2021 as follows.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV)

From 1st April 2021: everyone should attend School unless they are self-isolating. The Department of Health and Social Care is no longer advising that clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) individuals should shield. They should, however, continue to take extra precautions to protect themselves.

Covid Safety and Face Coverings

The School will continue with the social distancing, one-way systems, hand cleansing and the extra cleaning routine that was in place last term. **On Tuesday 6th April**, the Government confirmed that [face coverings](#) should continue to be worn in secondary schools and college classrooms as a precautionary measure when students return after the Easter holiday. Face coverings should be worn (unless pupils are exempt from wearing face coverings) in classrooms as well as in school corridors. For the sake of clarity:

- Face coverings should be worn on journeys to and from School if using public transport.
- Face coverings should be worn indoors across the School, including classrooms, where social distancing is not possible. This excludes PE lessons both in The Grammar and outside.
- Face coverings are voluntary at break and lunchtimes, except indoors and in dining areas where they should be worn unless eating.
- Staff face coverings are voluntary if social distancing can be maintained in the classroom. Two metre zones identified in all teaching areas.
- Whole School Risk Assessment – updated.
- Individual Risk Assessments: Students (and staff) who have individual risk assessment are invited to request a review of this document if they think this would be beneficial. If your son does not have an individual risk assessment but you believe this is now necessary, this can easily and quickly be arranged. In both instances, please email covid@agsb.co.uk.

Lateral Flow Testing (LFD)

Thank you for continuing to test throughout the Easter holidays. Unless you have opted out, your son must obtain a negative LFD test before returning to school, so please ensure that your son performs an LFD test on Monday morning (19th April). If the test is negative, your son can return to school; please report the result, as usual, to the School and via the NHS website.

If the result is positive, you as a household must self-isolate and your son should obtain a PCR test. If your son is unable to perform an LFD test, **please email the School using the covid@agsb.co.uk email address before he returns to school on Monday morning.**

Covid Safety Reminders

To recap on some important safety points for pupils:

- If pupils are self-isolating they must not attend school
- Pupils should use face coverings in recommended circumstances (see the latest guidance on this above)
- All pupils are to clean their hands thoroughly, and more regularly than usual
- All pupils should practise good respiratory hygiene and promote the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- All pupils should maintain social distancing when and where possible
- Report confirmed Coronavirus cases to the School

Immediate isolation is required for anyone suffering any or all of the three classic symptoms of Covid, namely: new continuous cough; a high temperature (fever); or a loss of or change in normal sense of taste or smell. If you display any of these, you and your household must self-isolate, and you must get a PCR Test at an external testing centre.

If your child displays any of the symptoms below, we also strongly advise that you do not send your child into school, and that you seriously consider arranging a PCR test to rule out COVID-19.

Non-classical symptoms include:

- Vomiting/nausea/off your food
- Diarrhoea
- Sleeping more than usual/extreme tiredness
- Listless/restless/agitated
- Shortness of breath
- Feeling cold
- Headache
- Severe body aches
- Sore throat
- Congested or runny nose

We fully appreciate that these are difficult and challenging times for everybody. As more students take tests, we will invariably identify more positive cases, however, at this time, you can also help to minimise wide-scale disruption by considering the implications of sending your child to school when they are feeling unwell.

Information from Trafford Public Health

“Guidance for Schools and Early Year settings has been reviewed in line with progression through the national Covid-19 roadmap. There are a few key updates to make you aware of:

- *As previously communicated, any positive LFD results now need confirmation via PCR. The new guidance states that the confirmatory PCR must take place within 2 days of the initial LFD. If it is outside of this time window, even if the PCR is negative, the contacts and cases must complete their isolation. This may have implications for those families who might have difficulty accessing testing sites as if*

requesting postal tests, the timeframe may not be met – we would therefore recommend that you ensure you have a full supply of your supplementary PCR kits so they can be offered to any families who may struggle to access testing.

- *We were delighted to see the amendment to guidance regarding the extension of eligibility for self-isolation payments (one off payments of £500). Eligible parents or guardians of children who have been advised to self-isolate by their education setting (even where they have not been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace) can also apply for the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme if they are on a low income, unable to work from home and need to take time off work to care for a child who is self-isolating. Please contact AGSB with the dates of isolation and they can then provide this as evidence for you when applying for the payment. Full details of how to apply can be found here [Test and Trace self-isolation support payments \(trafford.gov.uk\)](https://www.trafford.gov.uk).”*

We are looking forward greatly to welcoming back our students to AGSB on Monday 19th April.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G A Wright', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr G A Wright
Head Master