



<b>Our Ref</b>	MV/KB
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<b>Date</b>	03 March 2021
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Dear Parent and Carer,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to you on behalf of the Council maintained, faith and academy schools in Halton to provide you with an update on the welcome return of all pupils and students to school.

As you will be aware the Government, as part of its roadmap, announced that all pupils will return to school from the 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2021. I know schools have been planning for this, updating their risk assessments and making the school environment as safe and welcoming as possible.

The current situation differs to the autumn return of pupils for a number of reasons. Nationally COVID-19 transmission rates are falling, and I am pleased to say that Halton's rate is 85 per 100, 000 of the population, and reducing compared with a figure of 131 per 100, 000 mid-September and was rising. This fall reflects the commitment that residents have made during this last lockdown. In addition, we have had the roll-out of the vaccination programme.

Inevitably, we can expect that there will be some positive cases amongst pupils/students and staff in schools. To limit the potential disruption to schools we are asking for your help by adhering to the following recommendations:

- All adults to wear a face covering when visiting or entering the school premises
- Only one adult to enter the premises for drop off and pick up
- That you arrive and leave promptly when dropping off/ collecting your child – please do not congregate as we know that the virus is easily transmitted from person to person.
- Young people avoid congregating outside school and mixing with other schools and go directly home
- All adults and pupils wearing face coverings in all communal areas in secondary schools will be mandatory (except for those with an exception)
- All staff wearing face coverings when they come out onto the playground during drop off and pick up times
- Encourage students to adhere to the wearing of face coverings as set out by the school
- Ensure your household adheres to self-isolation rules



- Those traveling on dedicated school transport adhere to the mandatory wearing of face coverings that applies to public transport

The Government has now introduced a more extensive programme of testing.

For Primary Schools and primary aged pupils - staff will continue to be tested using home test kits, there is no intention to test primary age children.

For Secondary Schools and secondary aged pupils - home testing for pupils will be introduced.

Before home tests are carried out secondary schools are required to undertake three tests at school before they return school and home test kits can be used.

As a result the return for many schools will be phased so, please keep an eye out for communications from your child's school.

This testing regime is a critical element of our fight against this disease and I would encourage you to give your consent and make every effort to participate in this testing programme.

I know that you will with me want to do everything you can to keep our schools open and safe and your ongoing cooperation and adherence to these measures along with maintaining social distancing, and regular hand washing and/or use of hand sanitizer remains paramount.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'M. Vasic'.

Mil Vasic  
Strategic Director, People