



Dear Parents/ Carers,

5<sup>th</sup> March 2021

We hope you and your family are well.

Ahead of our phased return to school next week, we wanted to update you with the key information regarding the plans for how the school will operate from the 8<sup>th</sup> March.

Students are to return to school **on their designated day** and are expected to attend full time, **unless they are extremely clinically vulnerable** and have a letter to state they should continue to shield until the 31<sup>st</sup> March. If this is the case please provide us with a copy of your child's shielding letter. **We have sent separate communication to you which states exactly when your child is expected in school.** Please ensure you are aware of when this is.

In preparation for the full return of students our governing body have reviewed our risk assessment and approved it. All of the operating procedures in the risk assessment are in line with government guidance, which was updated after the announcement last week. These guidelines are designed to keep all staff and students safe by minimising the potential impact of COVID-19 on our school community. The updated risk assessment will continue to be available on the website.

**Please note that students should not come in to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms (new persistent cough, loss of taste/smell, high temperature) or are self-isolating due to someone in the household having COVID-19 symptoms and should seek a PCR test immediately.**

### Safety Measures

Please be assured that we are doing everything we can to make sure our students can return to school safely. All the protective measures that were in place during the Autumn term will still exist in school. However, there are several new measures that we need to make you aware of:

### Face Coverings

The updated government guidance states that:

*In secondary settings, face coverings should now be worn in classrooms unless social distancing can be maintained, as well as when moving around the premises. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons. This will be reviewed again at Easter.*

As students cannot socially distance in lessons we will expect students to wear face coverings in lessons as well as other communal areas. Students will be able to buy face coverings at school if they need to as was the case before Christmas. We will be providing transparent face coverings for students who need them.





## Mass Testing

Staff will be able to test themselves twice weekly from home from the 8th March.

Students will also be able to test from home following their three lateral flow tests on-site, 3-5 days apart. If you have given your consent for your child to have these tests then you will have received the information about when they will be having their first test. The second and third tests will happen during the school day and students will be taken out of lessons for this to happen.

## Remote Learning

Remote learning will continue for students next week until they return to school. Remote learning will also continue for any student who is either shielding or self-isolating.

## Year 11

Following the government's announcement about teacher assessed grades for the current Year 11 we sent a letter to all parents of students in Year 11 outlining the guidance. We will continue to keep you updated regarding this.

Whilst we appreciate these systems and structures are different they are necessary in ensuring that the school complies with the government guidelines, which will help keep our school community safe. All students will receive a full induction on the new systems and structures on their first day back at school. You can find our risk assessment and other useful information about returning to school on our website.

Lockdown has been a challenging period for all of us, and we'd like to thank you for your continuing support during this difficult and uncertain time. We are looking forward to welcoming all our students back on their specified day next week.

Yours sincerely,

Christina Bailey & Chris Heal  
Co - Acting Principals



