

# Haileybury Turnford

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21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Families

I hope you remain safe and well.

## Can I be tested for coronavirus?

The government is clear that the country is past the peak of COVID-19 infections, and that it is time to start easing some of the lockdown measures, including for schools. The government has also announced this week that anyone with symptoms of coronavirus is now eligible to book a test. Anyone experiencing a new, continuous cough; high temperature; or a loss of, or change, in their normal sense of smell or taste (anosmia) can book a test. A coronavirus test can be booked here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-for-coronavirus/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>

## When will school re-open?

The government are asking secondary schools to offer some face-to-face support before the summer holidays to supplement the remote learning of Year 10 and Year 12 students and to be ready to do that from 1<sup>st</sup> June at the very earliest. With senior staff, I have been planning for different possible scenarios and I can provide an update. **The most important principle guiding our planning work to move beyond the current arrangements is to ensure that school can be safe for students and staff.**

During next week and week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June (first week after half-term) we will continue with our planning for a phased re-opening. We hope to have initial meetings in school with some Year 10 and Year 12 students and their families week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June (second week back after half-term). The purpose of these meetings will be to re-familiarise students with the school environment, to discuss how they have coped during lockdown, talk about the work that has been done at home in recent weeks and to start thinking about next steps.

We will not be in a position to start face-to-face teaching, even with small groups of Year 10 and/or Year 12 students in school week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June or week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June. We will continue to be guided by government guidance for secondary schools as it emerges and plan to move towards teaching small groups on a very limited scale from week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> June at the very earliest.

Once school starts to re-open, it will be very different to the school that students previously attended. We will be following all social distancing measures and we will have very small number of students attending to ensure school is safe for all students and staff. This will involve staggered days and times for students, smaller class sizes, a different timetable, frequent handwashing and additional cleaning to our school facilities. I am confident we can manage this successfully, but our approach will be to take small steps over the coming weeks to ensure this can happen in due course, whilst at the same time being ready to adjust our plans as necessary.

Following half-term, week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> June, I will communicate more specific details about our plans and send you a short survey to complete to seek your views, worries and potential issues. In this survey, we will ask whether you would attend a face-to-face meeting in school with a member of staff, during the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> June. Ultimately, it will be for each family with a Year 10 and Year 12 student to decide whether they wish to attend such a meeting, or send their child to school for the provision that we are able to offer, based on the information and guidance we are able to provide about how we will manage our re-opening.

Therefore, from 1<sup>st</sup> June we will continue with the existing arrangements for working from home for all students other than those vulnerable students and those whose parent is a critical worker and cannot be safely cared for at home. Further details about our home learning arrangements for after half-term will be sent to you before the end of this week, which are being coordinated by the relevant senior staff with oversight for each year group. We will also publish the next edition of our Newsletter for families and e-Principal's Book at the end of this week to share our students' achievements whilst they have continued to work at home.



Haileybury Turnford, Mill Lane, Cheshunt, EN8 0JU 01992 308333 [enquiries@haileyburyturnford.com](mailto:enquiries@haileyburyturnford.com)  
Principal: Robin Newman MSc MBA

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Registered office: Haileybury Academy Trust, London Road, Hertford Heath, Hertford, Hertfordshire, SG13 7NU

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**And finally ...**

I am pleased to welcome back Mrs Megaw today, who returns as part-time Art & Photography teacher following her maternity leave.

Please continue to look after yourselves, and most importantly, stay safe. If there are particular issues over the May half-term break please do not hesitate to contact me directly. We are not asking teaching staff to be working over May half-term other than a small number of volunteer staff in school: it is important that staff, as far as possible, are able to spend time with their families. However, planning for our potential re-opening will continue, we will continue to deal with urgent issues, and we remain available to provide whatever support we can. I will write to families following the half-term break on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June unless there are any urgent updates that are required during next week.

My continued best wishes from all staff at HT.

Yours faithfully



**Robin Newman**  
Principal



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