

Ambition · Pride · Success

23rd February 2021

**Dear Families** 

## School to fully re-open to students from Monday 8th March

The Prime Minister announced yesterday that the government has set out its plan for the return of all students to schools and colleges, as part of the roadmap for leaving lockdown in England. All schools will therefore return to face-to-face education from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March.

The return to school for all students is being prioritised due to the significant and proven impact caused by being out of school to the health and wellbeing of children and young people. We are delighted that we will see all of our students back in school again very soon, despite the excellent work from students and staff during the current period of remote education since Christmas.

## Testing for students and staff

All secondary school students will take COVID-19 tests as they return to the classroom from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, and to accommodate this we will phase the return of students over the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March to allow students to be tested on return. This means different year groups will re-start face-to-face teaching in school on different days during the week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March. Until face-to-face teaching re-starts, remote learning will continue from home for those year groups. After an initial programme of 3 tests in school, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home. Staff will also continue to be tested, and will be provided with two tests to use each week at home.

Consent forms for students to enable them to be tested in school will be sent out to families this week. This testing programme will help break transmission links by identifying those who may be carrying the virus unknowingly and help to ensure school can re-open as safely as possible. Consent forms do not need to be completed again if previously returned to school earlier this term.

More detailed information will follow in the coming days to provide all the information needed to ensure a safe return to school for all students and staff. This will include specific information about when students in different year groups will be tested before they return to lessons, and when lessons will re-start in school for each year group.

Stay safe.

With best wishes Yours faithfully

**Robin Newman** 

Principal

