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Dear parents, carers, and students

I am writing to let you know the provisional plans for the return of all students to school, announced by the Prime Minister on Monday this week. As ever, these plans are subject to change and further clarification.

The announcement was that all students will be returning to schools in England from 8 March. However, there is an expectation that students will be tested for Covid-19 three times upon return and that students should only return to the classroom if the most recent test is negative.

Given the inevitable challenge of delivering testing, schools have been given license to phase return for students over the first week.

**We would like to get students back in as quickly as possible. We propose to do this by setting up a mass testing facility on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>, Friday 5<sup>th</sup>, Monday 8<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March to offer two lateral flow tests to every student before they return to school. Students will then return to school the day after their second test. We propose the following schedule:**

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March

- All year groups are offered their first lateral flow test by appointment (drive in, test, go home). The opening times for this facility will be 12.00-19.00 on Thursday and 9.00-15.00 on Friday.

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March

- All year 10, 11, 12, and 13 students (and younger siblings at the school) are offered a second lateral flow test appointment between 12.00 and 19.00 (drive in, test, go home).
- All year groups set work to complete at home during the day, as usual.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March

- **All year 10, 11, 12, and 13 students return to school.**
- KS3 work set online.
- Remaining year 7, 8 and 9 students are offered a second lateral flow test appointment between 12.00 and 19.00 (drive in, test, go home).

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March

- **All year groups back at school.**



This is an ambitious plan which will bring students back to school as quickly and as safely as possible.

**Testing is optional, but we would strongly encourage students to be tested.** The purpose of the testing is to identify anyone who may be carrying the virus before returning to school. Students testing positive will be asked to isolate in line with government requirements. Students who do not have a lateral flow test will not be prevented from returning to school.

Once back at school, students will be tested once more in school, 3-5 days after the previous test. After this, students will be issued with home testing kits and be asked to self-test twice each week.

I should emphasise at this point that the above steps are set out by government policy and will apply to all secondary schools in England. **We will provide further details and booking information shortly.**

### **Key worker provision**

Please note that those accessing key worker childcare provision may continue to do so right up until the return date for their child's year group.

### **Conditions of return**

The system of control in place in school is broadly the same as it was in the latter part of the Autumn Term. Staggered breaks and zoning will remain in place until at least Easter. Students will be required to observe the one-way system, regularly sanitise their hands, and avoid mixing outside of their year group wherever possible.

A significant change is that **students will be required to wear face coverings in all indoor spaces, including in lessons** (with the exception of PE). This expectation has been made by government and we believe it is a sensible, short term additional precaution. We expect the requirement to wear face coverings in lessons to be relaxed soon after Easter.

### **Attendance**

It is a requirement that all students attend school. However, clinically extremely vulnerable students should not return until shielding is lifted. Should you have any questions about your child's attendance or concerns about household members who have been advised to shield, please contact your child's Head of Year.

Getting children back to school is a national priority which we fully support. The local infection rates are below national average and falling. By the date of return, it will be unlikely that someone in school will carry the virus. The additional measures will mitigate this risk further. I am therefore confident that a full return to school is manageable.

I very much look forward to welcoming your children back to school.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Evans  
Headteacher