

3rd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have had a very pleasant Christmas and start to the new year with your family and loved ones. I am writing as promised at the end of term, to give you an update on the return to school. You will have likely seen that schools are opening as usual in January and we are really looking forward to seeing your children back in the building.

The return of students

Thank you very much for your support with the testing of students prior to their return to school. The days for the testing and first day back in school for each year group are attached for a third time on the below link.

<https://bit.ly/3pLCQAD>

The key -COVID related- message for students is an adapted version of the government mantra of 'face, space and air'. Students should be wearing face coverings on corridors, in class and in any other location where social distancing is challenging; students should respect social distance on corridors and in other inside locations; ventilation should be used by teachers whenever possible. We will, of course, be encouraging the use of hand washing and sanitizers as always and providing enhanced cleaning around the site. The use of face masks will be effective until at least the 26th of January when the current Government 'Plan B' measures are scheduled to end; they are meeting on or around the 4th of January to decide whether this date needs to be extended.

Isolation and close contacts

On testing. We would kindly request that all students take a LFT on the **morning of their return day to school** and moving forward, **each Sunday evening and Wednesday Morning** until at least the 26th of January -or any revised date that the government may or may not decide to extend its 'Plan B' measures to. As before, any positive tests need to be followed up with a PCR.

You will have likely seen that positive tests now require 7 days as opposed to 10 days of Isolation as long as negative lateral flow tests are achieved on days 6 and 7 of Isolation.

Close contacts of positive cases can continue to attend school/ work as long as they achieve a positive lateral flow test each day for 7 days.

Communication

I have taken on board the feedback from the parent survey on our need to improve communication as a school. If you would like to be part of a focus party of parents that can help us improve this then please contact Mrs Goddard, executive assistant to the Principal.

cont

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Principal: Mr R. Freeman

Uniform and standards

If we can support with any uniform purchases due to any financial hardship that your family may be experiencing, please do let us know, your enquiry will naturally be treated in complete confidence. Uniform will be checked on the day of each year group's return and regularly in form time. Just like you have your expectations and rules at home, we have ours as a school and students choosing not to respect these are doing so out of choice given the notice and number of reminders on expectations for uniform that we have given.

Please can you double check that your child has a **bag and warm winter coat** for the return - a reminder that hoodies are not allowed. Again, if we can support with a bag or coat, do let us know.

With warm wishes and wishing you and your families a prosperous 2022.



Mr Freeman
Principal

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