

5th March 2021

Newsletter – week 23



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you all have had a good week and are as excited as I am about the return of our students throughout next week. By Wednesday, we will have welcomed all of our students back into school. Whilst we have had a small number of students working with us through the last eight school weeks, getting everyone back in and working together face to face, is something that we have been looking forward to.

As a reminder, the return dates are:

Years 11, 12 & 13 Monday 8th March

Years 9 & 10 Tuesday 9th March

Years 7 & 8 Wednesday 10th March

I know many schools have adopted a system of spending next week testing students and then sending home again and returning at the end of the week or next week, but the plan we have adopted works best for us, and gets everyone back in as quickly and as safely as possible. In light of the ever-changing weather and the proposed late winter rain we are promised, we have changed our Asymptomatic Testing Site 2 from the marquee to the LRC. All students will be accompanied by form tutors. I would also like to reassure you that both testing sites have individual booths and are private.

I wrote earlier to our parents of Year 11 and Year 13 to share information that we are beginning to receive from exams boards and Ofqual. The summer assessment plan will be shared with our students and families as soon as it is finalised. The main point is that a range of information will be used in determining the Student Assessment Grade and the hard work over the next ten school weeks until May half term, will be essential in ensuring that students are awarded the grades that they are capable of and deserve.



POWERED BY



Principal: Russell Denial

A few parents have contacted the school in the last week to ask questions on a few matters, so I thought it would be best to compile these and clarify them in case other parents also have the same questions:

- PE Kit on PE days – we will be operating as we have done and asking students to wear PE kits on the days that they have PE. This will stay in place until Easter at the very earliest
- Face Masks in lessons – it is an expectation that face masks/coverings are worn by both staff and students inside the school at all times unless medically exempt. The other exemption to this is that if staff are able to maintain a safe two metre distance in a classroom whilst teaching, then this will not be required. This is a DfE recommendation.
- Is school returning to normal? – whilst we are all returning from next week, the safety measures and bubble system will remain in place for the foreseeable future. There may be an amendment to this when we are advised it is safe to do so, but we will not be changing any of the routines in place until restrictions are removed
- Is the Friday 'half-day' continuing? – the simple answer to this is 'yes'. The Friday period 4 allows for additional cleaning, planning and support for our staff and school. I must also add that Friday is not a half day, it has an earlier closure and one lesson is missed which is factored into staff PPA time. It is actually 77% of a normal school day. Discussions about this for next academic year are currently underway
- Will the cafes be open? – I am delighted to say yes they are! My creativity in preparing a lunch for myself has certainly waned in recent weeks and I know this will be a relief to many of us.

On a final note this week, I feel I must acknowledge the letter I sent to you on Tuesday about my departure at the end of the academic year. I just wanted to say thank you for the lovely emails and comments I have received.

Whatever your plans are this weekend, I hope you have a good one and manage some peace and relaxation in readiness for the weeks ahead.

Yours faithfully,



Mr R Denial
Principal

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