

23rd February 2021

Newsletter – week 22 – Part One

Dear Parent/Carer,

Along with everyone else, I am sure that head teachers feel enormous relief that schools are going to re-open their doors on 8th March. Children and families have suffered a great deal and we must all work together to recover 'lost learning' and overcome other missed opportunities and related challenges.

I must also be transparent about the practicalities of opening schools safely. Schools are to undertake mass testing and this is without doubt, logistically much easier said than done and a phased return commencing from Monday 8th March will be the approach that we take. We will be starting with our exam groups of Years 11 and 13, with Year 12 also in on Monday 8th March. The full programme and phased return will be published in due course, but our planning has all remaining students returning in school by Wednesday 10th March.

Our approach to school will be very much the same with year groups in bubbles for lessons and breaks as well as specific facilities only available to individual year groups at any one time. There are some further recommendations from the Department for Education which I have noted below:

- **Face coverings** - the DfE now recommends that face coverings should be worn in classrooms or during activities unless social distancing can be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons. This is an additional precautionary measure for a limited time during this period of high coronavirus (COVID-19) prevalence in the community. These measures will be in place until Easter
- **Testing** – students will have three onsite tests which will be offered three to five days apart as much as is practically possible in the first few weeks after return. Face to face education will resume after the first test. Once pupils have been tested three times at school, they will be provided with home test kits for regular testing. Testing remains voluntary but strongly encouraged
- **Attendance** - School attendance will be mandatory for all pupils from 8 March. The usual rules on school attendance will apply

I will write to you further to confirm all future planning as we move to welcoming all of our students back to school.

Yours faithfully,



Mr R Denial
Principal

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POWERED BY



Principal: Russell Denial