

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Return to school information**

I must apologise for the amount of communication that we have sent out in the last week following the announcement that all students will return from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. Unfortunately, there is a significant amount of information which we need to share prior to students returning to ensure we return safely.

Last week you should have received the following:

- Parentmail detailing the phased return w/c 8<sup>th</sup> March
- Information regarding the lateral flow tests
- Consent form (via Parentmail forms) for the lateral flow tests
- Year 11/13 parents/carers-update on outcome of exam consultation

Below is further information that we need to share with you regarding the return to school to ensure we reduce the risks of transmission on site. All students are expected back on site from their scheduled day of return:

- **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March**-Year 13, Year 12, Year 11
- **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March**- Year 10, Year 8
- **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March**- Year 9, Year 7

### **Covid-19 Risk Assessment**

The risk assessment which details the wide range of measures we have in place has been updated and the revised version will be uploaded on the 8<sup>th</sup> March on the school website [here](#).

We will continue to use the following measures to reduce the risk of transmission on site:

- Students must not come to school if they have any of the COVID-19 symptoms. They must book a PCR test and notify the school as soon as possible if it is positive.
- Sanitising hands on entry to school, entry and exit to lessons and in dining areas.
- One-way systems in the school buildings.
- Staggered breaks and lunches for year group bubbles.
- Classroom bases for some Year 7 and 8 lessons so there is less movement around the school site.
- Staggered exit at the end of the day.
- Well ventilated classrooms and all desks, where possible, will be set out in rows with students facing the front.
- Students will continue to wear their PE kit on PE days.
- Students should socially distance whenever possible.
- In addition, students will be tested on three occasions on their return (please see Parentmail dated 25<sup>th</sup> February) with a lateral flow test, if consent have been given, and then instructions will be given for home testing from that point forward. A risk assessment for the testing is also available on the school website.

### Face Coverings

- All students in England (unless exempt for medical reasons) **should now wear face coverings in lessons** where social distancing is not possible, as well as in corridors, dining rooms and social areas. This will be reviewed by Government at Easter.
- Please ensure your child has a face covering (visors are not advised in the guidance) and ideally a couple of spares in their bag (in case one breaks during the day).
- Students will be permitted to remove face coverings at social time when outside.
- Students will not be required to wear face coverings in PE lessons.
- Staff will also need to wear face coverings when they cannot socially distance. Staff have been advised to remove face coverings when delivering new content/giving instructions when they are stood at the front of the classroom, socially distanced from students. This should ensure those students who lipread, or rely on facial expressions for communication, are not disadvantaged.

### School Transport

- Face coverings are now mandatory on school buses.
- We strongly advise students to sit in the same seats next to the same people at all times. This will help us identify a smaller number of contacts in the event of a positive case on a bus.

### Uniform

- We expect all students to wear full school uniform on return (PE kit to be worn on PE Days).
- Students should not wear any jewellery and hair should be a conventional colour.
- If students have outgrown uniform during lockdown and there is a delay in arranging replacements they will need to bring a note into school from parents/carers to explain when it is expected to arrive. Please contact the school if you need support in purchasing school uniform. The PTA do also operate a uniform shop of good quality uniform.

### Pastoral support

We have an extensive pastoral support plan in place for returning students to help alleviate any anxieties or concerns that students may have. This includes assemblies, PSHE lessons, tutor discussions and 1:1 meetings for those who require additional support. The well-being and safety of our students on return is our main priority.

We are very much looking forward to our students returning in a safe manner from next Monday. All students will have an assembly this week to go through the testing process as well as the other measures in place with the aim of alleviating any anxieties they may have about the return.

Thank you for your support. We will continue to work with our students, and their families, over the coming week to support them in a return to full time school.

Kind Regards,

Mrs L. Oyston

Head of School

