

08.03.2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

I am delighted to report that, after a very busy week, we are primed and ready to welcome back students into the School next week. Our two sites have testing facilities up and ready to start testing on Monday. We have had wonderful support from the school community and now have staff and volunteers in place to run the full testing programme. The logistics of this process are hugely complex and whilst we very much hope that the system works well throughout the week, I would ask for your patience should there be times when things don't run so smoothly.

Teaching and Learning from 8th March

We would like to remind you that, over the three days of phased return to the classroom, independent work will be set via Google Classroom for those students who are at home.

May we take this opportunity to sincerely thank parents and carers for all that they have done to support their children during the period of remote learning. We know that remote learning can present great challenges to students and their families, and all of your combined efforts to continue learning as positively as possible in these extraordinary times have been hugely appreciated.

Returning to school

In most ways, the school will operate in the way that it did in Term 2. I want to remind students that the week commencing 8th March is a B week so will follow that timetable. Students will be expected to wear full school uniform, and wear their school PE kit to school on the days that they have PE lessons. What we would like to point out is that ventilation requirements will mean that windows in classrooms will need to be open so please ensure the students are dressed accordingly.

School buses will run from Tuesday 9th March, available to students from the day that their year group returns to face-to-face teaching. The updated guidance from the DfE about the wearing of face masks in secondary schools means that we will be encouraging all students to wear their face masks not just when walking around site, but in classrooms too, especially where social distancing is not possible. We would really appreciate your support in talking to your child(ren) about the importance of wearing face masks, and doing all you can to ensure that they bring one into school with them each day, as we do not have sufficient supplies to be able to provide them to all students.

Year 9 Options Process

We look forward to catching up with parents on Thursday 11th March to discuss options with students and parents. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any queries about the options process.

Ongoing use of Google Classroom

Please note that from the date that each year group returns to face-to-face learning in the classroom, lessons will no longer occur via Google Classroom. Google Classroom will, however, continue to be where homework and independent work is assigned, and where enrichment activities are shared.

Arrangements for work for absent students will vary depending on the reason for the absence:

- Students absent due to Covid self-isolation: work will be assigned via 'self-isolation classrooms' on Google (Years 7 – 10) or be set directly by teachers (Year 11).
- Short-term absence due to illness / other authorised reason: students should speak to their teachers on their return to school to be advised of any key activities that they should catch up on.
- Longer-term absence due to illness / other authorised reason: parents / carers should contact the relevant Head of Year to make bespoke arrangements.
- Unauthorised absence: students should be accessing learning provided at school, so separate work will not be provided.

As ever, we send our very best wishes to you and your families and are hugely looking forward to welcoming students back soon. Directives from the DFE have a habit of changing on a fairly regular basis, please be sure that we will be in contact if plans need to be altered.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Nicholson

Secondary Headteacher