

23 December 2020

Dear Parent/carer,

A staggered return for pupils and plans for Covid-19 testing in the school

You may have seen in the news that the government has announced a staggered return for pupils at the start of next term.

As already planned, Monday 4th January 2021 will be a training day for staff.

From **Tuesday 5th January until Friday 8th January:**

- We will provide full-time remote education to all students in Year 7-10 during this week.
- This will be as close as possible to the education they would receive if they were in school.
- Pupils should follow their normal timetable and will be provided with live streamed lessons via Goggle Classroom.
- **Year 11 students will attend school as normal from Tuesday, 5th January.**

We will welcome **all other students** back to school for face-to-face education on the week commencing **Monday 11th January 2021.**

Testing for the virus in school

You will probably have also seen the recent Government statement about testing in schools to minimise cases and transmission of the virus.

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms (they are called 'asymptomatic'). By testing people who are not yet showing signs of symptoms, we will help to stop the virus spread and to keep our school open as safely as possible.

Here is what we know so far about the rapid testing programme in schools:

- Pupils who are identified as a 'close contact' of someone who's tested positive will be eligible for testing



- All staff will be eligible for testing
- While testing will be optional, we will strongly encourage staff and students to take part
- We won't ask your child to participate in testing without your consent.

Over the coming weeks, we will develop plans in relation to testing protocols and procedures that will be implemented in the new term.

We will write to you again with further details on this, including asking for your consent.

On behalf of staff, trustees and governors, may I wish you and your family a safe and happy Christmas break.

We look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year.

Yours sincerely



Arthur Barzey
Headteacher

