



23 February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

### Re-opening plans – initial update

Yesterday, we received the information that we had been waiting for about the return to school. This is the first step in the wider return of society to degrees of normality from the restrictions of lockdown.

The announcement from the government can be found [here](#). Operational guidance to schools can be found [here](#).

We are very relieved that, at last, we have a roadmap for students to return to school. We know that school is where they will learn best and where we can maximise our support for each student. We are also reassured that scientific and medical advice is that students are relatively safe to attend school. With the tremendous progress made in the roll-out of the vaccine, perhaps we can do more than hope that we will not need to return to the restrictions that we have had to endure for so long.

We now know that the return to school for secondary students will commence on Monday 8 March. However, we were also informed that the school is required to organise and implement a mass testing phase so that each student (who gives consent) receives a negative Covid test result before they join face to face lessons, and that they will need to take a total of 3 Covid tests within the first couple of weeks of their return. In reality this means that the school will need to administer over 2500 tests in a relatively short period of time.

We are at the early stages of planning and I am not yet able to share too much detail on how we will implement the reopening, but we do know that due to the implementation of the mass testing roll out, there will be a **staggered return to school** from Monday 8 March with year groups being invited throughout the week to take their test, and then to be welcomed back to lessons. There will therefore continue to be the provision of online learning whilst the staggered return is implemented. Similarly, the special provision for critical workers and other invited students will continue to run until the relevant year group is fully back in school for face to face teaching.

I wanted you to be aware of our thinking around a staggered return as early as possible so that it does not come as a surprise to you. As specific plans take shape I will, of course, be in touch to provide more detail.

Finally, the government has allowed a discretionary further staff training (INSET) day to be taken by schools. In order to gather the staff team together, to plan for the return of students from the 8 March and to implement our mass testing preparations, we have decided to use this training day on **Friday 5 March**. As with other INSET days, staff will not be delivering lessons and special provision will be closed as their focus will be on planning and training.

Thank you for your patience and I will be in touch as soon as possible with further detail about out plans.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mr Johnson', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

**Mr A Johnson**  
Headteacher