



3 March 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student,

### Welcome back from lockdown!

I am delighted to be able to write to you about our return to school next week. The vast majority of year 9 have been working incredibly hard from home and have been unbelievably supportive of each other (and their teachers!) in getting through these unusual circumstances together. I am extremely proud of their perseverance during this lockdown and am confident that the skills they have gained from online learning will be invaluable experience for the future.

Whilst we have lost time in school, we are fortunate that we do the 3 year GCSE course, so year 9 have the time to get back on track. Please reassure you child not let past mistakes stop them from moving on, instead make positive changes to overcome them.

The focus for year 9 is to help with their **resilience to learning**. As teachers, we wholeheartedly appreciate how unsettling this period has been for our students, particularly given the increased demands of studying for their GCSE's. We will therefore be looking to build their confidence in their learning – both when working independently on their homework and in class alongside their peers.

There will be opportunities to get involved in enrichment, extra-curricular activities, year 9 homework club and 'catch-up sessions' for those who need to get back on track. Further details of this will be sent out in the coming weeks.

### Preparing for your child's return to school

To support year 9 in their return to school please could you ensure:

- They have **full school uniform** (this includes shoes NOT trainers and no hoodies);
- They have full **PE kit** (Maiden Erlegh and NOT other branded clothing);
- They have the correct **equipment** (as a minimum PREP – pencil, ruler, eraser and pencil);
- They have a **supply of face masks** to use throughout the day;
- They are **on time** to school (8.30am for year 9).

A letter has been sent out previously about this so please refer to this.

### Thursday 4 March

There will be an online assembly to explain the return to school. Students will access this via their tutor group Google Classroom at 10am.

### Wednesday 10 March

Year 9 will be invited in for their first COVID test. They will need to come in at the following times.

9G1	8.50am
9G2	9.10am
9P1	9.30am
9P2	9.50am
9T1	10.10am

9T2	10.30am
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Students will need to arrive at the times above and enter the site via the PE entrance. Students will be asked to line up outside the sports hall which is our testing centre. Students will need to ensure they are wearing masks for this whole process, they will also be expected to wear full school uniform.

A video explaining how the testing centre works will be available on the school website and posted into the year 9 support Google Classroom.

### **Thursday 11 March**

Year 9 will start school on Thursday 11 March. They need to be in school for 8.30am.

Students will then see their tutors before attending a 'year group line-up' on the MUGA before going to Period 1, where they will have an assembly with myself. Students will be in school for the rest of the day.

### **Other Key Dates:**

- 26 – 30 April: Year 9 assessment week
- Thursday 10 June: Year 9 Progress Evening

Finally, I would like to say on behalf of the year 9 tutor team, a big 'thank you' to all our parents for your support in ensuring our students continue to access their education. We are very much looking forward to welcoming them back.

Should you wish to discuss anything from the information evening or have any questions, please contact me on 01189 668 065.

Yours sincerely



**Miss Z Wildman**  
Head of Year 9