



Dear Parents,

I hope that your children have had a good break over the half term period and are now settling back into the routine of remote learning.

We are clearly delighted to have had confirmation yesterday that schools may reopen from the 8th of March 2021, as it will be tremendous to see our whole community in person again. I know that parents will appreciate that at every stage, we have opened activities as soon as legally allowed and logistically able, with appropriate measures in place to reduce the risk of transmission. We are focussed on this once again and are reviewing the detailed guidance from the Department for Education following the Prime Minister's announcement.

For Senior School students, we need to offer a Covid lateral flow test before they return followed by two further tests at three to five day intervals, after which further tests to be taken at home will be provided. While these tests are optional, I strongly encourage all families to support this initiative that is intended to identify asymptomatic cases before they come into school. This does mean that we will need to stagger the start of Y7-Y13 across the first couple of days with some consequent disruption to lessons. During this time, we anticipate continuing to provide meaningful work to be completed remotely where necessary and ongoing supervision for critical workers' children who do not have alternative childcare. We will confirm testing arrangements and timings for when each Senior School year group will be able to return as soon as we can, but we intend to prioritise Y11 and Y13. I should add at this point that testing should not significantly impact the internal exams schedule for these public exam year groups, which are intended to provide students another (and not final) opportunity to show their best ability. I shall write further about the process for Teacher Assessed Grades after Ofqual provide this, which we expect will be later this week.

Y3-Y6 are not impacted by testing so they will all be able to resume on Monday 8th and Mr Miller will be writing to Junior School parents separately.

In the meantime, I would be grateful if Senior School families could support our preparations by completing a testing consent form which can be found [here](#). Keyworker families who have already completed this do not need to do so again. For students under the age of 16, parents need to complete the form while students aged 16 and over need to complete the form themselves. I would also like to extend particular thanks to the parents who have volunteered their time to support the in-school testing efforts.

We will be in touch with more information once we have had opportunity to consider the detail of the guidance and I very much look forward to seeing all our students in school very soon!

Best wishes,

Geoffrey Stanford
Headmaster