

Dear Parents,

I am sure that, like me, you are delighted at the news that schools will reopen in England from Monday 8th March. Meanwhile, we will be continuing with our provision for children of critical workers, and also our community of boarders who have remained on site throughout this lockdown. We wanted to give you as much notice as possible about the key details of reopening, but please do read this week's newsletter for further details. One of the constraints that we face with reopening is the need to carry out testing of pupils in Years 7 and above, which we are not permitted to start before Monday 8th March.

Therefore, we will be doing the following -

- **Friday 5th March** - we will not be running 'live' lessons this day (including tutor period), as we will be using the day to get all teachers tested, and to prepare the site for the return of pupils. However, teachers will be setting work to be done during lessons scheduled for this day, and pupils should complete their work as normal.
- **Monday 8th March** - lessons will recommence for all pupils in **Reception up to Year 6**, and pupils should arrive at the same times as last term. If anyone is displaying any symptoms, please do not bring them back in.
- **Monday 8th March** - this day will be used for testing of all pupils in **Years 7-13**, so there will be no lessons taking place on this day. Times will be shared for parents to bring their children in for testing, and they should go home after their test (unless they are staying to board on the Monday evening).
- **Tuesday 9th March** - lessons will recommence for all pupils in **Years 7-13**

Please note that we do intend to go ahead with the **exeat weekend** on Saturday 13th/Sunday 14th March, as we feel that the return to school could be challenging for some children. It will also provide a moment for us to review what we are doing, and check that all is working well.

Term will end on **Saturday 27th March** at 9am, although end of term Assemblies will be released online that morning. For those who are not boarding on Friday 26th March, you will be able to go home at the end of the Friday.

One important change to the guidance for schools is the increased requirement for wearing of **face coverings**. We will be enforcing this for Years 7-13, so it would be helpful if you could ensure that your child has a few face coverings that they are comfortable wearing.

We will not be making any of our Year 11 or Year 13 pupils take further **mock exams**, but we will be providing opportunities for in class assessment throughout their time back at school.

For those who are **boarders**, houses will be open from Monday 8th March (evening). If any contemporary boarders would like to stay in school for any extra days, to avoid travel back and forth, and reduce any risk of transmission, this can be arranged with the relevant HM or house parents.

There will be more details in Friday's newsletter, but finally, for now, please can we remind all families that it is absolutely essential that we all continue to follow the **Government Guidance** during this time, in order to enable the school to remain open, and to minimise any risk related to Covid transmission.

Many thanks,

Chris Townsend
Simon James