



Wednesday, 24th February 2021

Dear Families

I hope that you are well and that the new half term has begun positively for your child. You will be aware that on Monday of this week the Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced that all schools would be reopening from Monday 8th March.

Date of Return and Mass Testing

The national guidance issued by the Department for Education recognises that most secondary schools will need to stagger the return to school, with different year groups coming back onto site on different dates from March 8th onwards. This is because all students will be tested for Covid-19 with lateral flow tests when they come back to the school site. All students will receive three lateral flow tests, 3 to 5 days apart from each other. This means that we will need to process almost 4500 lateral flow tests, which will make considerable demands on our staffing and the space we have available to operate the tests.

As we are sure you will therefore appreciate, it is not possible for all students to return on the same day. We are currently finalising the plans for the testing, to take account of the new guidance for three, rather than the initially planned two, tests to take place. Once this is in place, we will write to you next Monday, 1st March, with confirmation of the date that your child's year group will return to school. In the meantime, please do contact your child's tutor if you have any concerns about their return to school.

Consent for Testing

Thank you to the hundreds of families who completed the consent form for mass testing when we sent it out last half term. This has been a huge collective effort from every family to help keep the school safe.

If you have not already done so, please ensure that you complete the consent form found at this [link](#) by 9am on Thursday 25th February. Additional details of the testing can be found in this [letter](#) on our website. *Please note that if your child is 16 or above, they should complete the consent form themselves. We would be grateful if you could check to ensure that this has been done.*



If you have any questions about the mass testing, please contact Ms Gostling at d.gostling@sydenham.lewisham.sch.uk

Continuation of Remote Learning

Until students return to the school site, they will continue with their remote learning and live lessons. Please ensure that your child continues to log into TEAMS for the live lessons and accesses Show My Homework. Cover work will be set on Show My Homework if a teacher is absent and unable to deliver the live lesson.

Awarding grades for Year 11 and 13

Finally, we are expecting the government to announce details at the end of this week about how grades are going to be awarded to those students in Years 11 and 13 who would have been taking public exams in the summer. As soon as we have any further details, we will share them with you. We are aware that for these year groups, there is an understandable need to know how students will be assessed and rewarded for their work.

Please do stay safe and take the very best of care of yourselves and each other.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Lowe

Headteacher