

24 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you are continuing to keep safe and well and have managed to digest the government's plan unveiled this week that all pupils will return to schools and colleges in England from Monday 8th March 2021. Part of this plan is to offer all students to be tested three times, three to five days apart, on site through an asymptomatic testing programme. Although testing still remains a voluntary option to both staff and students, testing can help identify people who are infectious but do not have any coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms.

The Department for Education has stated that testing and the return of pupils can be phased during the first week to help manage the number of pupils passing through the test site at any one time. This has also allowed individual schools some flexibility on how they do this according to their own circumstances, but does state that schools should prioritise year groups 10-11 in the first instance.

Our testing facility has capacity to test around 300 students on a daily basis. We will need to repeat this test three times for all students before students can start to complete the tests at home. **I therefore envisage that during the week beginning 8th March, learning will be a blended mix of on-site and remote learning until we can test all of our students.**

We are in the process of sending out consent forms to all parents/carers. To process the test, we need to register all participating students and you will need to complete an online registration form and the required consent statement. We will need a speedy reply with regard to this, as this will determine how soon we will be able to fully reopen the school to all year groups.

I will contact you again later in the week with further information regarding the testing process and the staggered return to the classroom. In preparation, please start to sort out uniform and ensure your child has a face mask as this will be required upon their return. Thank you for your understanding and support with this matter.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Owens
Head of School