



4th January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Welcome back to the New Year! I do hope you managed to enjoy the New Year period despite lockdown restrictions. There are challenging times ahead in the short to medium term but, fingers crossed, the long-term horizon looks a bit sunnier.

As things stand at the moment, our strategy is broadly the same as I described when I wrote to you on New Year's Eve:

- Year 11 students will now return to school on Monday 11th January for face to face teaching
- Y11 students are scheduled to be mass tested from Thursday this week before they return; details will follow
- Years 7-10 will now return on Monday 18th January for face to face teaching
- Years 7-10 wherever possible will be tested next week prior to returning; details will follow
- The school will, however, remain open for the children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable students

The reason for this is to:

- reduce the transmission of the Covid variant
- allow schools to plan and implement mass testing for students and staff before their return; the training has started today

In the meantime, all our students are expected to learn on-line by following their normal timetable from today. This is through Microsoft teams. Mr Jones, Deputy Headteacher wrote to you earlier today providing further guidance and advising what steps to take if you experience any difficulties with on-line learning.

Factors that might alter this position

- If the Government imposes a longer lockdown, then we will need to reconsider when we start the programme of mass testing
- If the Government changes its overall guidance to schools, then we will need to plan accordingly

The Mass Testing Process

Students will be given time slots when they can come into school to be tested and we will write separately giving details of when these are. We will also give you information about how you can provide consent either online or on paper which we must have before proceeding with any test. Y11 should receive this information tomorrow; Years 7-10 will receive this information later in the week.

The Testing Team volunteers

I would just like to extend a huge thanks to those of you volunteering your support for the mass testing programme. Your commitment and willingness to support the process is deeply appreciated and once we have a clearer idea of how this will roll out we will be in contact.

As with all things Covid related things can change but this is our current position.

Regards,

Tim Long, Principal

