

23rd February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this finds you and your loved ones well.

As you will be aware, the Prime Minister has confirmed that from the 8th March schools will reopen for all pupils, but with a phased approach so not all students return on the same day. Students will be offered rapid COVID-19 tests at school before they return, however these remain optional and parental permission will be sought before any child is tested. Though the government is keen to encourage as many students as possible to be tested, any students who do not wish to take part in testing will still be expected to attend school. The DfE have also updated the guidance which explains the actions school leaders should take to minimise the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in their school.

To prepare for this, school leaders are required to:

- review and where necessary, update their risk assessment
- make sure they are following the system of controls to minimise the risk of infection, including plan for asymptomatic testing
- have a contingency plan in place for outbreaks in the school or changes in restrictions
- communicate any changes in processes to parents

As well as detailing the process for mass asymptomatic testing (for which additional guidance is being provided later this week), the revised guidance highlights the following:

- use of face coverings in classrooms for secondary age pupils and staff
- mandatory attendance at secondary school for all students
- expectations for clinically extremely vulnerable pupils and staff
- curriculum expectations

We are also expecting final details this week on the confirmed process for GCSE grading this summer, after exams were cancelled.

Alongside all of the above, our top priority will of course be the wellbeing of your children and plans are already in place for managing the social and emotional needs of students on their return to school.

We are excited to have the students back with us soon. As parents/carers, you have done a tremendous job supporting your children and the school and I thank you for that. If we can maintain momentum through your child/children attending online lessons over the next few weeks, I am sure we can look forward to a very positive future together.

Take care.

Best wishes,



MR. W. THOMPSON
Principal