



24 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you with an initial update on the planned reopening of school from Monday, 8 March, following the Government announcement on Monday. The school has received new operational guidance from the DfE and we are working through this so that we can ensure the safe return of all students. All of the measures that were previously in place remain the same, but there a number of additional control measures:

- **Three asymptomatic voluntary lateral tests in school from Monday, 8 March – Monday 22 March:** this will be offered to students onsite from Monday, 8 March. Students will return to face-to-face education the day after their first negative test result. This is asymptomatic testing only, if a student is displaying symptoms of coronavirus they need to self-isolate, follow national guidelines and book a test at a test centre
- **Home testing from Monday, 22 March:** following three onsite tests, those students who have consented will move to a home testing model. Students will be provided with two tests each week to use at home. We await the delivery of these testing kits to school.
- **Staff testing:** staff will also be provided with two home testing kits each week.
- **Face coverings in lessons:** until Easter, face coverings must also be worn in lessons where social distancing cannot be maintained. This does not apply in situations where wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part in exercise or strenuous activity, for example in PE lessons.

In addition to these new arrangements, we are currently reviewing our previous measures. It is likely that we will return to our staggered start and finish times and staggered lunchtimes – to help minimise the mixing of year group bubbles. Due to the size of our school population, we will need to phase the return of students to school. Details to follow.

Where families and students have chosen not to take part in testing, they will attend school in line with the phased return on their designated day.

We seek your support to help us fully plan and to be able to confirm our testing arrangements. This significant logistical challenge of testing drives much of how we re-open school. A consent form will follow this letter and we kindly ask that completed forms are returned via the MyEd app by 9:00 am on Monday, 1 March.

We are very much looking forward to the return of students and thank you for your continued support. Please look out for further communications throughout next week.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully

Matthew West
Principal

