

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you and your family have enjoyed the break over Christmas despite the restrictions.

Following the Government announcement on schools yesterday afternoon, I am writing to confirm arrangements for the first two weeks of the Spring Term. Details on arrangements after the first two weeks will be confirmed as soon as we have them.

As you are probably aware, the rising rates of coronavirus infection have led the Government to delay the return to face-to-face teaching in secondary schools. A staggered return is therefore required, with priority given to our Year 11s who are due to sit public examinations in the Summer, alongside vulnerable students and the children of critical workers. Key arrangements for the next two weeks are as follows:

- Years 7-10 will have remote teaching online from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. Students will follow their usual timetable of lessons, beginning with Tutor time or assembly at 8.30 and then for periods 1-4 (9.00 until 12.40), all via Microsoft Teams. They will be able to return to school for face-to-face teaching on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January.
- Year 11 will also have remote lessons starting on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. However, students in this year group will be able to return to school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January.
- We will continue to provide face to face education on site from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January for vulnerable students and the children of critical workers. We will contact these families early next week to notify them of arrangements.

Over the holidays we have been working on plans to begin offering coronavirus testing for students and staff in school, and I will keep you updated on these arrangements as further information becomes available. This testing programme will help us to identify asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases and thus to reduce possible transmission in school, which will be beneficial.

The rising rate of infection is naturally of concern to us, and we will be keeping the safety of our community at the heart of all our planning.

With every good wish to you all for 2021.

Best wishes,



Tim Dainty  
Principal

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