

23rd February 2021

Dear parents and carers

I'm sure you will all have seen the news that schools can re-open to all pupils from 8th March. This is obviously brilliant news and we cannot wait to see everyone back in school and in face-to-face lessons.

As ever, things aren't entirely straightforward and it may not be quite as simple as everyone being back in school as normal on the 8th. We need to arrange testing for students before they go into any lessons and, for a school of our size, this will probably necessitate some kind of staggered start (with online lessons continuing in the meantime). I hope you will understand that we need a little time to draw up detailed plans and I will be back in touch later this week. Rest assured that our aim is to get all students back in school as soon as we possibly can and that we are confident this will be by the end of the week commencing 8th March at the very latest.

In the meantime, you will receive a letter (probably tomorrow) asking you to complete a short online form giving consent for your child to have the lateral flow tests in school. More information will be sent with the letter, but I would like to take the opportunity to urge you to complete the consent form as soon as possible; quick responses will really help with our planning and organisation.

The other key element of yesterday's announcements related to the need to wear face coverings in lessons, at least until Easter. I don't think any of us would say this is ideal, but we don't have any choice over it and I suspect most of you will agree with me when I say it seems a small price to pay for getting young people back into school. We'll be in touch with more details on this in due course.

Finally, we are still waiting for further news regarding examinations this summer but hope to have some information within the next week or so. Again, we will let you know as soon as we hear anything.

Kind regards



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