



Return to College

Dear Parent or Carer

Further to my previous message following the Government's announcement that schools and College's will return to face to face teaching for all year groups from 8th March, this email will give you a brief outline of how we will organise this return with further details to follow next week.

Return to College

The DfE guidance is that students have to be tested at College and receive a negative result prior to returning to classroom lessons. Although all staff will return to College on 8th March teaching will be cancelled on 8th and 9th March to facilitate the huge challenge of safely testing 1500 students. Teaching will resume on 10th March. This will enable us to provide all students with an appointment for a test on either Monday 8th or Tuesday 9th. They will subsequently receive two further tests at College before beginning twice weekly testing at home. I will share further information about both the testing at College and guidance about the home testing in the coming weeks.

This is a daunting task and we need your help!

1, Please encourage your son or daughter to look out for an email with a time for them to come into College on either Monday 8th or Tuesday 9th March.

2, Please encourage your son or daughter to keep their appointment. I appreciate that it is an inconvenience to travel to College only for a test, however, I am certain that all members of the College community will understand that by being tested we are doing our part to keep everyone at College as well as the wider community safe as we return to face to face learning. We aim to have seen and tested every student within 30 minutes of their appointment time.

3, Please ensure that your son or daughter has considered how they will travel to and from College on the day of their appointment.

We have contacted the transport providers who have been really helpful in adapting services, wherever possible, so that students can have their test and then return home without a lengthy delay.

I will share further details about any arrangements we have been able to make with transport providers when we send students their appointment time. Of course you are welcome to give your son or daughter a lift to and from College if you are in a position to do so. Normal transport arrangements will operate from 10th March.

Safety Measures – Testing and Masks

In light of the new guidance, we are currently updating our risk assessment which again we will share with you next week along with a reminder of the safety protocols that will be in place. This will incorporate the new safety measures outlined in the latest guidance such as the testing programme and also the requirement for staff and students to wear masks in areas where social distancing cannot be ensured. **This means that your son or daughter will be required to wear a face covering in the classroom (unless they are medically exempt)** . The emergency timetable will remain in place along with the other associated arrangements such as students eating lunch in their class bubbles.

I know that while there will be many students (and parents) who will be excited at the return to what currently passes as normality, there will be others who are anxious about our return. I am convinced that if we remain vigilant in following safety measures and remain supportive of each other we will continue to be successful in our response to the challenges we face.

Kind regards

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