

01 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Return in January 2021 and Testing in Secondary Schools**

Following the government's announcement this week in response to the rapidly rising case rates due to the new, more transmissible variant of COVID-19, all secondary schools in England have been requested to push back the staggered return by one week. This staggered return will provide all schools more time for the rollout of rapid testing and, on top of existing protective measures in place, will help keep our schools as safe as possible for students and staff.

We will continue with a staggered return in January as planned, with some slight adjustments in accordance with the new government guidelines. Given the ever changing landscape and guidance at the moment, I have set out next week's plan in this letter and at the end of next week I will write again with the plan for the following week.

### **Tuesday, 5th January – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

- Face-to-face provision will be available for all students of critical workers and vulnerable students. Please ensure you have completed the online survey to notify the College of attendance [here](#). If you have already completed this – please note that Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January is now available for booking in addition [here](#).
- All Year 12 and 13 students will commence Remote Live Lessons via Googlemeet following their normal College timetable.
- All Year 11 students will have Remote Live Lessons via Googlemeet following the programme published on our website (this will go live on Monday)
  - English, maths, science, ebacc lessons in the morning
  - Option subjects in the afternoon
  - 3-4pm – small group masterclasses (invitation only)
- Students who have upcoming public examinations over the next two weeks will be invited to attend College on the days they have lessons in these subjects in order to have face-to-face preparation lessons, as well as Remote Lessons prior to their examination (they will be contacted by the class teacher on Monday and Tuesday next week with these arrangements)
- All other students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be provided with independent online learning lessons to complete each day following the links on our website, which will go live from Monday.

## Testing programme in preparation for a return

We are expecting to receive testing materials on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. If so, we will follow this testing programme for week 1:

### Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Test 1

8.00am	Onsite staff
8.30am	Critical worker and vulnerable students (year 11, 12, 13) that will be onsite at any time this week
9.15am	Critical worker and vulnerable students (year 7 & 8) that will be onsite at any time this week
9.30am	Critical worker and vulnerable students (year 9 & 10) that will be onsite at any time this week
9.30am	Any students that have an external public examination this week
12.30pm	All Year 13 students
2.00pm	All Year 11 students

All these students will be tested again on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January for their Test 2 (times to be confirmed).

NB: Students must enter through the main sports centre external door only, and will be directed to the testing area before entering the main college. **Unless remaining in school on Tuesday** (critical worker or vulnerable) students are not expected to wear school uniform, but **MUST** wear a face covering at all times.

As set out in my letter dated 21 December 2020, a consent form must be completed in order to take part in the testing programme. If you have not already completed this please do so [here](#).

### Additional information

All students attending **face-to-face lessons** in school are expected to:

- wear their normal School Uniform and attend with the appropriate learning resources.
- wear face coverings at all times around the college
- follow all social distancing measures and one-way systems around the College.

### Welfare and progress checks

All students / parents will receive a welfare and progress phone call from the pastoral team / tutors on Monday and Tuesday next week. As part of this call they will discuss Free School Meal access, how to access remote learning, any issues relating to IT equipment and access.

### Provisional plan for the following week

What we know so far:

- Face-to-face provision will continue to be available for all students of critical workers and vulnerable students.
- Year 11 & 13, and key examination groups in other year groups will attend lessons onsite.

- Rest of the school will continue remote learning, with a planned return date for Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

I wish you and your family a very Happy New Year and thank you for your continued support during this challenging time. We are all very much hoping for a more settled 2021.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Frier". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized, with the first letter 'A' being particularly large and prominent.

Anita Frier  
Principal