



Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear parents and carers,

It has been lovely to welcome students back to school this week and to see how happy they are to be back in the school building. We are extremely proud of how well they have conducted themselves during this period, with excellent support from their teachers and from our non-teaching staff. The process of testing students and reintegrating them to school has gone very smoothly with only minimal disruption to lessons.

### **Reopening of the school**

As you are aware, students returned to the school this week in a staggered way so that they could be tested before returning to lessons. We are pleased that most students have consented to undertake Lateral Flow Device testing, since this is an important control measure that can help to reduce the spread of the virus.

After they have completed three tests in school, students will be given home testing kits to complete twice a week at home. Students will be asked to report the results of their tests to the school after every test, using an online form which will be shared with you next week.

### **Uniform and dress code**

We are grateful to parents and carers for ensuring that students are wearing the correct school uniform and dress code at all times. Please can we ask you to ensure that students have appropriate school shoes, rather than trainers, and that they are wearing a school blazer. We are aware that students may have grown out of their school shoes or blazers and need to buy new ones. If any families need additional support with this, please let us know as we are more than happy to help.

The government have made clear that school attendance is mandatory during this time, except for those students who have been notified that they are Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. All students should attend school every day and it is important that students are on time, so that they do not miss out on important learning.

### **Masks and face-coverings**

All students and staff are required to wear masks in school, both in corridors and in lessons. Students must bring their own masks to school and must wear them properly, covering both their mouth and nose. Any students who are exempt from wearing a mask should speak to their Head of House so that they can be given a card explaining that they are exempt.

Government guidance about masks can be found online: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/face-coverings-when-to-wear-one-and-how-to-make-your-own>



### Awarding of GCSEs, A-level and technical/vocational qualifications

Since exams are not happening as usual this summer, the school will provide exam boards with the grades students should be awarded for their qualifications. The work that students complete this term and in the summer term will be an important part of the evidence used by teachers to determine students' grades. It is therefore essential that students continue to work hard and to complete all work that is set for them by their teachers.

Further information about this has been sent to you separately by Ms Christofides. In addition, parents of students in Year 11 and Year 13 are invited to attend an online information session on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 4pm. Please follow the link below to join this meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/91294122755> (meeting ID: 912 9412 2755).

### Academic Review Day

The school will hold an academic review day on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> March**. On this day, normal lessons will not take place. Instead, each parent will have an appointment for a meeting with the school to discuss the progress of their son or daughter. Appointments will take place remotely and times will be sent out by post the week before, along with a written report that will include a comment from teachers about students' progress and information about their predicted grades. Students will also be provided with appointment letters, to ensure parents and carers are informed about the time of their appointment with teachers.

I hope that you and your families are keeping well and staying safe during this time. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely,

Dr K Vincent

**Principal**