

2nd March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

We very much look forward to the return of **Year 9 on Friday 12th March** and cannot wait to welcome our students back into school. We appreciate that this has been a challenging period for everybody and there will be a mixture of emotions in response to school reopening. We cannot emphasise enough, the benefits of returning to our normal school routines. To have the support of friends and staff to share our experiences and frustrations and a structure to our days will all be invaluable. We would encourage all of our students not to panic about missed learning. What is important, is that they return to school with an open mind and a willingness to work, learn and progress. The students have shown impressive resilience over recent weeks and we can congratulate them on their engagement with the remote learning. We have absolute confidence in their ability to transition back into normal school life and look forward to a positive second half of the academic year.

Year 9 will have their first testing slot on Thursday 11th March. Students should arrive at the Sports Hall during their allocated time slot as shown below: Please aim to arrive as close to the start of the time slot as possible.

| | 9.30 - 10.00 | 10.00 - 10.30 | 10.30 - 11.00 | 11.00 - 11.30 | 12.00 - 12.30 | 12.30 - 1.00 | 1.00 - 1.30 | 2.15 - 2.45 | 2.45 - 3.15 |
|-------------------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Thurs 11th March | 9W | 9R | 9O | 9Y | 9G | 9B | 9I | 9V | 9T |

There is no requirement for students to wear school uniform when attending their testing slot. Students will leave the school site and return home once their test is completed. Year 9 will then return to school full time on Friday 12th March. A reminder that the school day begins at 8:50am, all students are expected to arrive by this time. Details about the second and third testing times will be given to students when they are in school. Once these tests have been completed testing will then take place at home.

On the whole, the arrangements in place in school will be the same as we have operated since September. The students will remain in their year group bubbles and the phased end to the day will continue. One change introduced by the Government is the requirement for students to wear face masks in lessons as well as during lesson transitions. This will be in place until Easter when the Government will review this requirement. We have already identified a small number of students who are exempt from this requirement during the 7 week period when face masks were first required in school. These students will remain exempt. All other students will be expected to wear a face mask. Please do ensure that your child has suitable face masks in readiness for their return to school.

Given the return to school is now imminent it would be very timely to check your child's uniform. Full uniform expectations will be in place and we would want to avoid any unnecessary issues that incorrect uniform could cause so that our focus can be on learning. That will also apply to hair colourings and jewellery. Please do take advantage of the time before your child's return to address any issues. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

Throughout lockdown there has been provision for certain groups of students in school. **This provision for Year 9 will end on Wednesday 10th March.**

We are very much looking forward to seeing the students again and taking these first steps on a return to some normality.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L Brown
Assistant Head KS3

Ms J Essex
Head of Year 9