

26 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this email finds you well. Spring is definitely in the air, and with it a sense of optimism, I think, for a return to things being a little more 'normal'.

Rapid testing

Thank you to all parents who have let us know whether they give consent for their child(ren) to have three rapid tests when they return to school. For those who have not yet told us, there is information about how to do this in an email sent yesterday. Please let us know (if you consent or if you do not) by Monday 1st March. We have to plan how we will get all the students tested in the time available and how many volunteers we will need to run the testing centre, so the sooner we have numbers for testing, the better. As we said in our communication yesterday, once the children have done 3 tests in school, 3 – 5 days apart, then we will provide them with individual test kits to take home and continue testing themselves at home.

Arrangements for students' return from 8th March

When I write next week, I will provide further details of how school will operate in the three weeks up until Easter, with particular emphasis on our Risk Assessment and system of controls. We will operate in a largely similar way to how we were before Christmas, with a one-way system, lots of sanitising and handwashing and children outside at break and lunchtimes.

If your child will be exempt from wearing a mask, would you please email their form tutor with this information, which will be held centrally.

Canteen

Free School Meal Parcels will be available to collect as usual on Monday 1 March. Arrangements for Meal Parcels from Monday 8 March will be as follows:

Year 11 will be in school and can use the canteen as normal.

Year 10 will have their meal for Monday added to the parcel collected on 1 March.

Years 9, 8 and 7 will be able to collect a parcel for the appropriate number of days they are at home on Monday 8 March.

The canteen will have a reduced range of hot and cold meals on Monday 8, Tuesday 9 and Wednesday 10 March but will have a full service from Thursday 11 March when most students are back in school. All meals will continue to be served in individual boxes, with other items individually wrapped, as they were before Christmas.

Decision on how GCSE Results will be determined Summer 2021

Ofqual have published its consultation decisions this week, as I am sure you will have seen on the news. We received the general information yesterday, which I attach for your information. Teachers have yet to receive the subject-specific information from exam boards – we expect this before Easter. As I am sure you will appreciate, we need to fully digest all this information and agree on how we manage this. We will write with further information, including a date for a rearranged Y11 Parents Evening, as soon as we can. The message for Year 11 students is clear and remains unchanged: results will be based on completed and future work, so keep doing your best.



Keeeeeep Dancing!

As there will be no dance show this year, Miss Whitaker and some of her students have been working hard, outside lessons, on an extra-curricular dance project. It has been created to show how they are making the best of the current situation - getting up and dancing, instead of sitting around. You can click the link below to download and view it. We hope you like it!

<https://wettransfer.com/downloads/b784b7ade61df80aa68955d7c19a6e1c20210225091928/7285f73b390171e6e35737917c76e02c20210225091945/42699a>

We are looking forward to welcoming the children back from the 8th. Please prioritise letting us know about testing if you haven't done so already. Next week I will write with more details about arrangements for the return to school.

With kind regards

Rachel Kelly
Headteacher

