

2 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Year 13 return to school

Further to our communication last week, I am writing to provide additional detail on your child's return to school.

During the week commencing 8 March, we will be undertaking mass testing of students on site. The intention of this testing is to identify asymptomatic cases within the community and break the chains of transmission before any spread. Due to the high numbers of children we need to test, the numbers of staff required to run the testing and the length of time it will take to complete the tests, we are asking year groups to attend only on certain days of the week.

Year 13 will return to school on Monday 8 March. In order to get through testing as efficiently as possible, we ask that Year 13 students are on site and in their tutor rooms by 8.30am. School coaches will be running on normal routes. If you bring your child to school by car, or if they walk or cycle to school, we would appreciate your support in ensuring a prompt start to the day.

When students arrive at school, they must come directly to their tutor rooms where they will be met by their tutor. It is important that they avoid contact with students outside their tutor group as far as possible at this time. They will be placed into tutor group 'bubbles' which will remain together until we have received all test results back. Once students have received their test results (we would expect this to be by 10.00am), they may choose to use the sixth form area to complete independent study or they may choose to leave the site and work from home.

There will be no provision from the school canteen at breaktime; children should avoid eating or drinking in school before they are tested. Please remind them to eat breakfast before leaving home. The canteen will be open as normal from lunchtime once all tests are completed.

Year 13 will then study independently at home on the 9 and 10 March. On 11 March, they return to school and will follow normal timetabled lessons. During this time, we will be calling them for their second test. They will then study at home independently on 12 March.

On 15 March we will have carried out mass testing across the student body and will be welcoming all students back onto site in their year group bubbles. Timetabled lessons will be taking place as normal for all year groups from Monday 15 March.

We have implemented a range of measures in school to keep us all safe and to limit the spread of the virus. These will remain in place and it is vital that they are followed by all members of the community. Face masks must be worn on the buses and not removed until disembarkment. Government guidance has now been updated to advise that face coverings should also be worn in classrooms and other indoor areas, please ensure your child has a sufficient number of masks for the day. Children will be reminded of our one-way systems and the importance of following these and remaining in their bubbles. We would appreciate you reinforcing these important messages at home.

Yours sincerely

M J Maw

Matthew Maw
Deputy Headteacher