

2 March 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Year 8 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 8 will return to school on Wednesday 10 March. The school day will begin at 8.55am as normal. 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. Students should come to school in full school uniform.

When students arrive at school, they must come directly to the top court where they will be met by their tutor. It is important that they avoid contact with other students as far as possible at this time. They will be placed into tutor group 'bubbles' which will remain together throughout the day until we have received all test results back. Students will follow a pastoral programme for the morning session and will remain in their tutor group bubbles until lunchtime. After lunch they will have the opportunity to participate in some physical activity; students will need to bring their PE kit to school with them.

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.

The school day will end at 3.20pm as normal and we expect coaches to depart at 3.30pm.

Year 8 will then study independently at home on the 11 and 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