

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your family are keeping well and that you had a restful half term.

As you will have no doubt heard in the news today, Boris Johnson has announced that all students will return to school on March 8<sup>th</sup>.

You will understandably have a number of questions about our return and I hope the points below will answer a majority of your queries.

### **What will happen between now and the 8th March 2021?**

Students will continue to access remote provision as they are currently. We will be holding two staff INSET days on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March and Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March. As a result of this, there will be no 'live' seminars on these days, however, work will still be set for all students on Teams. We will still be open for all Keyworker students on these days.

### **What will restrictions look like for the children when they return?**

All students will be expected to wear masks as they are now. There has been a new addition to the guidance which states that secondary age pupils will also be expected to wear masks in the classroom. If they are exempt from mask wearing, they will have to show their exemption card when requested. We will continue to have separate lunch breaks for all year groups and will still have our staggered start and end times each day. We will also continue to use our 'one-way' system for movement around the school site.

### **What is happening with lateral flow testing?**

We are awaiting further announcements on how lateral flow testing will be conducted within the secondary setting. As soon as we have more information, I will write to you.

### **What time will the children return on the 8th March 2021?**

I will write to you with further details on this later in the week as it may be necessary for us to have a staggered return in the event that we have testing requirements to fulfil.

### **What will happen if a member of the school community tests positive for Covid-19?**

We will continue to follow the national guidance for isolation if we are notified of any positive Covid-19 cases within the school community. This may mean that your child will be expected to self-isolate if they come in to contact with a positive Covid-19 case, however, as previously we will be in touch with further details on next steps if this does happen.

***Devices from the DfE***

We have now heard back from the DfE and have been allocated 59 laptops by the DfE and a further 50 devices from other donors. We are really sad that we are not able to provide a device for all of the children who requested one, but I am sure you will understand our position on this. We will be making contact with those families who have been allocated a device with further details on collection.

If you have any concerns or queries, as always, we are here to help.

Take care,

Emma Howard

Head of School