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Dear Parent,

As many of you will be aware the UK government made another announcement with regards to the reopening of schools for the end of the Lent term. Once again, I am writing to you today to explain how this will affect your child and when they are able to return to school.

Phased Start to Term

As the government requires us to offer asymptomatic Covid-19 testing to all pupils in years 7 to 13 upon their return and before going into lessons, we will need to stagger their return.

From Monday 8th March 2021 the following pupils can come into school:

- All pupils in years 3 to 6 (no Covid-19 testing required).
- All pupils in years 10 to 13.
- All boarders, regardless of year group.

From Tuesday 9th March 2021 the following pupils can come into school:

- All pupils in years 7 to 9.

Mass Testing Programme

One of the reasons for the slight delay in returning to school (for years 7 to 9) is due to the mass testing of pupils (years 7 to 13) and staff in school, as a way of reducing the spread of the virus and enabling fewer pupils and staff to have to self-isolate.

I know some of you have returned the consent form for your child; for those that have not I will resend them, now that we have a confirmed date for our return.

Online Lessons

If your child is not in school, lessons will continue online as usual. However, due to testing both teachers and pupils, there will be no online lessons during Periods 1 and 2 for any year group on Monday 8th March and Tuesday 9th March 2021.

International Pupils

There is no expectation for international pupils to return to school for the last three weeks of the Lent term, as we recognise that travel restrictions remain in place, as does a period of quarantine. On-line lessons will continue for those not in school.



For those that wish to return, they may do so unless their country is on the 'red list' as the government is not allowing any non-UK citizens to come to the UK from these countries.

www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors

Test to Release for International Travel

If you are travelling back into the UK from a country that is not on the travel corridor list (or red list) www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-travel-corridors the quarantine time is ten days.

However, the government has introduced a scheme where you can choose for a private Covid-19 test, which can be taken five days after leaving the country not on the formal corridor list. If the result is negative you will be able to stop self-isolating. To take part in the scheme you need to book a test with a private test provider: www.gov.uk/government/publications/list-of-private-providers-of-coronavirus-testing/list-of-private-providers-of-coronavirus-testing#test-to-release-for-international-travel and opt into the scheme on the passenger locator forms: www.gov.uk/provide-journey-contact-details-before-travel-uk. You must book the test before you travel to England. www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-test-to-release-for-international-travel

Face Coverings

In line with the announcement made on Monday, all pupils, staff and visitors, (unless medically exempt), will be required to wear face coverings when in the school buildings, which include all communal areas and class rooms. This will be in place until the end of the Lent term in the first instance.

Arrival at School

When pupils arrive in school on their first day back, they should go straight to their tutor rooms and not mix with other pupils at this stage. They should endeavour to maintain 2m social distancing wherever possible. We will continue to operate in year group bubbles, once testing has taken place. Boarders should go to House and report to their Housemaster/Mistress or Housemother on arrival and not go straight to their room. If possible, parents should not come into House. If you wish to speak with a member of staff please arrange this in advance.

School Transport

- Buses will run as normal from the 8th March 2021. The wearing of a face covering and adhering to seating places remain the same as last term.

Parents Driving to School

To encourage social distancing, help with the flow of traffic and also help reduce congestion/time on site, we are introducing different drop-off/pickup points and a one-way system between 8.20am–8.40am and 5.15pm–5.30pm during the school week.

Years 3 to 6: Enter school through the gate near Lower School and drop off/pickup in the Lower School bus park and then exit through the same gate.



Years 7 and 8: Enter school through the gate near Lower School and drop off/pickup in the Tennis Centre car park and then exit through the same gate.

Years 9 to 13: Enter school through the gate near Lower School and drop off/pickup near St Hilda's and in the main quad. You should leave by turning left out of the main quad to exit down at the main gate of the school, (passing the swimming pool). Please **do not** park on the road by the pool. If you are waiting for a swimmer please park on Parry's.

This one-way system and new drop off/pickup system are only for the start and end of the school day, 8.20am-8.40am and 5.15pm-5.40pm. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Equipment

All pupils should bring to school their own text books, pens, pencils, ruler and calculator as we will not be sharing equipment.

Pupils should also bring a water bottle to school and take it to the Dining Hall, as water jugs will not be on the tables.

I hope that this is the start of some form of normality, with pupils back in school and a gradual reduction in restrictions to look forward to.

Kind regards,

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