

## Friday 26th February

**Dear Parents and Students** 

Over the coming week there will be important information we will, by necessity, need to share with you. However, I wanted to update you at the earliest opportunity with our plans for the reopening of College from <u>15<sup>th</sup> March</u>.

## Asymptomatic Testing Programme

As you are aware, a key part of the Government strategy for the safe reopening of schools and colleges is the use of lateral flow device testing for students. Please note that participation in the lateral flow testing (LFT) is voluntary, although we do strongly encourage engagement in the programme.

Students have received two separate invitations asking them to consent to being tested.

The College is making full use of the opportunity provided by the Secretary of State for Education to phase the reopening and the return of all students. From Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> March to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March the College will undertake testing for those students who have given consent.

Only after three negative tests will students be issued with a home testing kit, which will enable them to test twice weekly ahead of coming to College. The national plan is that students will be confident to take the test at home and where necessary with parental supervision.

If you have not already done so, but wish to participate in the LFT programme you may do so via [link from Katie Murray]

Do be aware that in line with guidance, when a student gives their consent to be tested, they are not able to enter classrooms until they have received a negative result from their first test. It is in students' best interests to be tested ahead of 15<sup>th</sup> March in order that they may return to College.

Students who do not wish to participate in the LFT programme may return to College on 15<sup>th</sup> March as normal.

## Return to College

Remote education will continue for all students throughout the week of  $8^{th}$  March. Appointments for LFT are a priority and lessons will be recorded in order that students may catch up in their own time.

All students will return to College for their normal timetable from 15<sup>th</sup> March.

College transport will be up and running from 15<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Further Information**

We will send details of the measures which will be in place to ensure the safe return of students including additional measures necessary in line with guidelines week beginning 8<sup>th</sup> March.

We will also send details to year 13 students regarding national arrangements for awarding A Level and BTEC grades this summer when we receive further guidance from examination boards.

We very much appreciate that this is an anxious time for everyone and would reassure you that the College continues to do its very best to ensure that information is accurate and timely. I thank you in advance for your patience and support as the College works to welcome students back.

Yours sincerely

Stephanie Dean

**Assistant Principal** 

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