2 March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to confirm the arrangements for your child’s return to school. I also wanted to reiterate my thanks to you for your co-operation and support over the last two months. We also want to say a big ‘Well done!’ to the students for their hard work and perseverance in difficult circumstances. Needless to say, we are really looking forward to welcoming them back.

The plan for all students to return is as follows, with year 11 students coming in for testing on the 5th of March and then going home, so that they can start lessons as soon as possible on March the 8th. Each year group will come into school and then return home following their first test. They will then return to lessons on the following day.

**Your Child’s Testing Appointment:**

Your child’s testing appointment has been sent to you by e-mail

Your child will then return to lessons on the following school day, provided she has a negative result.

If you have not given consent for your child to take a covid test in school, please do not send her in for the appointment as we cannot allow her to test in school without your consent.

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | On site learning | Testing | Remote learning |
| Friday 5th | - | Y11 | All year groups |
| Monday 8th | Year 11 | Y10 | Y7-10 |
| Tuesday 9th | Year 10-11 | Y11 | Y7-9 |
| Wednesday 10th | Year 10-11 | Y9 | Y7-8 |
| Thursday 11th | Year 9-11 | Y10/ Y8 | Y7 |
| Friday 12th | Year 8-11 | Y7/ Y11 | - |

In our planning, we have tried to prioritise a safe, smooth transition back to school, and ensure that students in years 10 and 11 return to learning as quickly as possible. Due to limited space in our Hewett Hall, which we use for testing, and the need for a safe and staggered process, with students given carefully spaced appointments so that we test 5 students at 5 minute intervals, initially. By allowing more time, we should be able to reassure students, particularly those who may find the process upsetting or invasive, supported by staff who are familiar to them.

Parents of Year 7 students may be disappointed that they will not be in school until Friday. This is because we have prioritised testing for Year 10 and 11 students who, because of the 3-5 day interval between tests, must be tested twice in the first week.

On days when students come to school for their first test, these will be ‘Wellbeing Days’ for KS3 and self-directed learning days for KS4. This will be organised to allow students time to travel to school, have their test and return home, without creating anxiety about missing work.

Your child can wear casual clothing for the test but should come to school in uniform, as usual, the next day, when she will be following her usual timetable. Please ensure that your child has a face mask to wear in school both on the test day and then for her return to lessons the following day.

Please make sure that your child attends school for her test at the appointed date and time. She needs to enter the school by the **student gate** and will be met by staff to be directed to the test site in school. If you have any queries, please contact your child’s Student Progress Leader.

Thank you once again for your co-operation and support.

Yours faithfully

Helen Marriott
Headteacher