Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you have enjoyed a restful holiday and are safe and well.

I am writing to outline a change to our scheduled return to school. We had hoped to get students back into school as quickly as possible and with minimal disruption to their education at the start of term. Unfortunately, due to the unprecedented number of COVID cases, both nationally and in Waltham Forest, we have now had to review our strategy.

The start of term will be as follows:

**Tuesday 4th January:**

**Years 8 and 9 will remain at home and remote learning work will be set on Teams for teaching periods 1-5. Work for year 10 students will be set on Teams for periods 1-3 on Tuesday.**

Students in years 7, 10 and 11 will arrive in school at the following times:

* Year 7: 9.00
* Year 11 (11S and 11F): 10.30
* Year 11 (11W/G/C/H): 11.20
* Year 10: 1.30

**Wednesday 5th January:**

Students in years 7, 10 and 11 will arrive at school as usual by 8.45.

Students in years 8 and 9 will arrive in school at the following times:

* Year 9: 9.00
* Year 8 (W and S): 10.30
* Year 8 (F/G/C/H): 11.20

**Students should enter through the main gates and then line up on the MUGA where they will be collected by their teachers or taken directly to the testing station.**

**Once students are in school, they will remain in class.** Anyone who receives a positive test result will be isolated in the covered patio and you will be contacted by the front office.

I understand that this late decision may be disruptive for working parents and I apologise if this is the case. However, it is important that we respond to the latest data and information and I feel that I have no other choice in order to keep everyone in our school community safe, whilst also ensuring that students return to learning as quickly as possible.

You will have seen today in the news that the government has reintroduced **the use of face masks** **in classrooms.** This is something we had already reinstated following a rise in local cases in December and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for supporting us.

Please could you ensure that when your daughter returns to school, **she wears a mask and, if possible, has taken a home lateral flow test.**

Yours sincerely

Helen Marriott