

Friday 26th February 2021

Dear Families,

In my video this week, I have outlined the plans for our safe return to school on Monday 8th March. As you know, every student has to take 3 lateral flow tests over the first 10 days following our return. Can I take this opportunity to reassure you that the test is a simple and safe procedure in which you use nasal swap only. Students do not have to swab their throats! It is a little uncomfortable but is very quick. The tests have worked well for those of us who have been in school since January and we know they are important for keeping all of us safe. Your child will need a smartphone to register their result. Please let us know as soon as possible if this will be a problem.

If your child is in Year 10 or 11, please ensure you have signed the testing [consent form here](#). If your child is in Year 12 or 13, they can sign their own testing [consent form here](#).

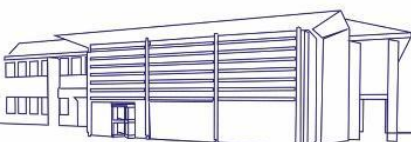
When we return, masks will also be compulsory in line with government guidance. Please ensure your child has a mask when they come into school. Thank you in advance for supporting us.

A reminder that on Friday 5th March all lessons will be set online and there will be no live teaching. This will enable us to train staff to support students with their testing and ensure the school is safe and ready for their return.

On Monday 8th March, students in Year 10 and 11 should arrive at school by 9:15am and line up in their usual places outside where they will be met by their Prep Tutor and taken for their lateral flow test. Students will learn how to take and register the tests themselves. **Normal lessons will start from Period 3 on this day.**

On Monday 8th March, students in Year 12 and 13 should come to school **10 minutes before their designated slot** and line up in the playground. They will be met by their Prep Tutor and taken for testing before being allowed to go home. Lessons will be set online for that day. **Normal lessons will start on Tuesday 9th March.**

	Group	Form Tutor
9:00 AM	12 E	Ms Ferguson
9:30 AM	12B	Mr Shah
10:00 AM	12C	Ms Juttla
10:30 AM	12D	Mr Palmer
11:00 AM	12F and 12G	Ms Barrow
11:30 AM	13A	Mrs Thompson
12:00 PM	13B	Ms Curry
12:30 PM	13E	Mr Coles
1:00 PM	13D	Mr Naidoo
1:30 PM	12A	Mr Young
2:00 PM	13C	Mr Richardson
2:30 PM	CATCH UP	



I know lots of you, and your children will be concerned about how grades will be awarded this summer. Please read below for full details of this will work.

As a result of the disruption you have faced due to the pandemic, the government has said that many exams and assessments cannot be held this year in a way which is fair. All parts of the education system are working together to make sure that you are still able to get your grades and can carry on with your lives, whether that is continuing with education or training, or going into the workplace. To be of value, qualifications must reflect what you know, understand and can do and must be widely understood and respected.

We appreciate that this is a stressful time. There has been a great deal of uncertainty, and many of you will have missed out, not just on teaching and learning, but on the support offered by face-to-face contact with fellow students, friends, family and employers.

GCSEs, AS and A levels

For GCSEs, AS and A levels, teachers will assess the standard at which you are performing based only on what you have been taught so that your school or college can determine your grade. Teachers' judgements will be based on a range of evidence relating to the subject content that your teachers have delivered, either in the classroom or via remote learning. Where relevant, this will also be the case for students undertaking BTEC qualifications, for which further clarification will be provided in the coming weeks from the DfE.

Teachers will be able to use evidence about your performance gathered throughout your course to inform their judgement. The evidence used will follow that which was communicated to you by us previously and includes:

- Engagement data during remote learning
- Coursework / controlled assessments that you will be completing when you return to school.
- Internal Testing which will be organised for May.

Your teachers do need to have solid evidence of your ability in order to provide a grade for you. The grades they give for your assessed work will be moderated by other teachers to ensure fairness of a single teachers marking judgment.

The arrangements for this year are designed so that teaching and learning can continue for as long as possible, so your teachers' judgement of your work should take place as late in the academic year as is practical. It's important that you keep engaged in your learning and study as long as possible so that your hard work can be considered in your grade. And it will stand you in good stead for the next stage of your life. Teachers will tell you which pieces of work will count towards your grade, before your grade is submitted to the exam board.

For GCSE, AS and A level Art and design, your grade will be based on your portfolio only, whether or not you have finished it. And for GCSE English language, GCSE modern foreign languages and A level Sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Geology), we will submit a separate grade or result for the spoken language or practical skills tested, based on work that you have completed.

The government is working towards you receiving your results for AS and A levels on 10 August, and GCSEs on 12 August. Results for vocational or technical qualifications linked to moving on to further or higher education should also be issued to you either on or before these dates. Teachers will not be able to give you your overall results before this date as the exam boards will also be moderating the results we submit.

Yours faithfully,

Victoria Griffin
Acting Principal