

4<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I am writing to you with further details regarding the return to school for all students on Wednesday 10th March, following our COVID-19 testing programme.

We appreciate the challenges students have faced during this difficult year and understand that this could be an anxious time for some students. I hope you will be reassured that staff are very much looking forward to welcoming students and supporting them with their transition back to school.

The following information concentrates on the arrangements for the first day (Wednesday 10th March) at school and the rest of this half term. There will be further updates throughout the rest of this half term providing additional information specific to each year group.

#### The Timetable:

Until Easter, we will be following the timetable that was originally planned for the Spring Term and which students have been following remotely during the current lockdown.

Tutorial	Year 11 – 8.40am
	Year 9 – 8.45am
	Year 10 – 8.50am
Lesson 1	9.00am – 9.55am
Lesson 2	9.55am – 10.50am
Break	10.50am – 11.10am
Lesson 3	11.10am – 12.05pm
Lesson 4	12.05pm – 1.00pm
Break	1.00pm – 1.20pm
Lesson 5	1.20pm – 2.15pm

#### Wednesday 10th March:

**Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11** students should arrive at school for their tutorial time as highlighted in the table above. Tutorial will be extended into Period 1 on this first day and lessons will start Period 2.

The aim of this extended tutorial is not only to welcome students back to school, but also to help familiarise them with our day-to-day practices, offer some support around wellbeing, as well as give students the chance to ask any questions they might have.

Students have also been emailed a 'Return to School Wellbeing Guide' from their Head of Year and we would advise that students refer to this before returning on Wednesday.

Moving forward, the pastoral support team will be on hand to offer any additional support to any students who need this.

**Year 13 Students** should go to their tutor bases at 8.50am on Wednesday 10th March for an extended tutorial. This morning tutorial will replace the Wednesday afternoon tutorial for Year 13 students.

**Year 12 Students** should go to their tutor bases at 9.00am on Wednesday 10th March for an extended tutorial.

Sixth Form lessons for both Year 12 and Year 13 will therefore begin Period 2 on Wednesday 10th March following the tutorial session.

After this first day, Sixth Form tutorials will revert to the original Spring Term plan:

Year 12 - Every Thursday 2.15pm to 2.45pm

Year 13 - Every Wednesday and Thursday 2.15pm to 2.35pm

This timetable maintains the two 20 minute breaks and allows us to continue with the additional Catch-Up sessions for Year 11 and Year 13 up to the Easter Holiday. After the Easter Holiday, we expect to return to hour-long lessons even if we have to maintain the shortened breaks. We will also be looking at developing Catch-Up sessions for other year groups starting with Year 10 in the first instance.

**Catch-Up sessions for the remainder of this term:**

Every Tuesday from 1.10pm – Year 11 English, Maths and Science additional lessons.

Every Wednesday from 2.25pm – Year 11 Option Subjects additional lessons on a carousel basis.

Every Wednesday from 2.40pm – Year 13 additional lessons on a carousel basis. **On the first day back (10th March), these will start earlier at 2.20pm because of the morning tutorial that day.**

Every Thursday from 2.25pm – Year 11 Option Subjects additional lessons on a carousel basis.

Every Thursday from 2.40pm – Year 13 additional lessons on a carousel basis.

Some of these Catch-Up Sessions will be affected by Parent Consultation Evenings. This means while some of the sessions will be face to face and classroom-based others will have to be recorded presentations following our remote learning approach. Students will be informed prior to these Catch-Up Sessions with the arrangements for each one.

### **Year Group Bubbles:**

The Year Group Bubble arrangements remain in place for the rest of this term. These are the same bubble and entry/exit gate arrangements that were in place prior to the Christmas holiday:

Year 9 A Block Enter and Exit school via Gate 2

Year 10 B Block Enter and Exit school via Gate 3

Year 11 C Block Enter and Exit school via Gate 4

Year 12 G, H, I, F and S Blocks Enter and Exit school via Gate 1

Year 13 D Block Enter and Exit school via Gate 1

### **Face Coverings:**

Government guidance regarding face coverings states they are recommended for students and staff in communal areas and classrooms where social distancing cannot be maintained.

In addition, SAGE guidance states face coverings can be effective in reducing transmission in public and community settings. Their effectiveness stems mostly from reducing the emission of virus-carrying particles when worn by an infected person (known as source control).

Given this guidance, we will be asking students until Easter, unless they are medically exempt, to wear face coverings at all times when they are in the school building. This includes in lessons, corridors and in the indoor social areas. The exception to this is when students are eating in their year group dining areas or when they are outside. We will therefore be encouraging students to use the outdoor year group social areas during their breaks so that they can remove their coverings and get some fresh air.

Students should have their own face coverings and carry a spare one with them when in school.

Our rationale for this decision is that, while the health risks to students are low from COVID-19, the risks to staff and the wider community are higher from transmission of the virus. Therefore, anything that can reduce the risk of transmission is critically important until the virus is under control both locally and nationally.

This additional precautionary measure is for a limited time period until the Easter holiday when the DfE and we will review this approach for the summer term.

### **Remote Learning for Self-Isolating students:**

We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back into the classroom on Wednesday 10th March, however, the mass testing programme may identify students who have to self-isolate before returning to school.

This means we will continue delivering remote learning for those students. This remote provision will have to be adapted, as teachers will be teaching their normal timetable lessons in school. However, all lessons and instructions will be emailed to any students who have to self-isolate at the start of each day.

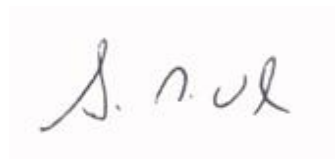
**Conclusion:**

It will take time for students to gain a sense of normality when they return to school and we will do everything we can to support students in this process.

The success of the vaccine suggests a greater level of normality is not far away and I look forward to the day we can return to the vibrant and happy community that makes this school so special.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



STEVE WILSON  
Headteacher