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**Head of School: Joan Wright**

 2nd March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you to those of you who have replied to our survey with regards to testing at home.

As of Monday 8th March we are expecting all children and young people to return to school. We have reviewed our risk assessments. We are prepared and looking forward to seeing all our young people again. If you haven’t already, I would remind everyone to read our risk assessments which are available on the school website. For those of you that have not been in school, it will remind you of the expectations and the ways in which we are having to work to keep everyone safe.

**Please contact the school if you are not planning to send your child back on the 8th March. We understand some people may have concerns about returning to school and we want to work with families to support a successful return.**

From Monday 8th March students and staff can choose to wear a face covering in the classroom. We remind parents and carers that these face coverings are only of any use if they are worn appropriately and cleaned daily.

We are awaiting the delivery of home testing kits for students but once they arrive we will send these home. We expect this delivery to arrive during the week of Monday 8th March, after the students have returned to school. We are hoping every family will try to test their child twice a week at home as it helps reduce the chances of outbreaks in school. This will work best if tests are carried out at home on a Sunday evening and a Wednesday evening. These are the same times staff will be testing themselves at home. We will provide information on how to carry out the tests before the tests are sent home.

Unlike mainstream secondary schools we do not intend to test students on site first. This is because for the majority of students we feel the best place for young people to be supported with testing is at home. We are also not in the same position as mainstream secondary schools who have had over 90% of their students at home and therefore face a greater risk of outbreaks as they return in great numbers. We have far smaller numbers and already have around 50% of the young people in school. Unlike many mainstream schools we have also had all staff attending every day, being tested twice a week.

**If you have any concerns or would like any additional support or training with testing at home please contact our family work team, who will do their best to support you.** In some cases young people will need help with practically carrying out the test and in our view this is best done by a parent or carer but we are here to provide support and guidance on how to do that.

Kind regards



Christopher Best

Executive Head Teacher