

Wednesday 23 February

Dear parent/Carers,

Following the Government's announcement that all schools will be able to start reopening during the week commencing Monday 8 March 2021, I wanted to let you know that we have met as Senior Leaders across the Trust to discuss how best to facilitate this.

It is highly likely that we will implement a phased return of year groups across the first few days of the week of 8 March but, as you can appreciate, there are many operational factors to consider and further Department for Education guidance to understand before a final plan is communicated.

I will be writing to you this Friday, 26 February, with further details for the reopening; this will include an update for Year 11 students as the Government has confirmed that it will be announcing its plans for the awarding of GCSE grades on Thursday. Friday's letter will also include information about Covid-19 testing and safety protocols. As you will have heard, testing for those without coronavirus symptoms was introduced nationwide in January using new 'lateral flow tests'. Across all of our schools, these tests have been running supervised by trained school staff and volunteers with minimal disruption to lessons. The tests are quick and easy using a swab of the nose and throat. Results are available within 30 minutes and are shared directly with participating students and their parent/ carers. The test remains voluntary; however, as a school we would encourage everyone to take it.

On the Covid-19 Information Page of our [website](#) , parents and carers can access the information we shared about Lateral Flow Testing in January. We ask that all families ensure they have completed the required consent form indicating whether or not consent is given for students' engagement with the testing process. The Covid-19 consent form can be accessed [here](#).

Finally, thank you for your ongoing and continued support of the school and our efforts on behalf of your child; we are delighted to be working towards the return of all students to in-school provision.

I will be in touch again on Friday.

Heidi Philpott
Head of School

Inspiring, enabling and celebrating each and every young person's personal best