

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your sons/daughters have had a good break. We are excited to see the return of students next week. While it won't quite be school as it was before March 2020, it will certainly be a lot closer than it's been in the past 18 months or so and more information on this will be shared before the start of term. For those in Years 8-11, at the end of last term, the plan for the staggered return of students in September, was shared with you via the newsletters. That plan stands as communicated to you in July, with one minor change (the earlier return of Year 9 – see below).

There will be more information shared with you as we start the new term, including, but not limited to:

- the whole school risk assessment
- new school operational guidance
- other school events – including parent information evenings

The [operational guidance issued to schools](#) in July (and updated in August) requires schools to offer the new Lateral Flow tests to every student on return to school and have a second test within a week (3-5 school days) of their return. The new Lateral Flow Tests only require the nose to be swabbed (not the throat). It is also recommended that staff and students resume the twice weekly home testing regime until the end of September when this will be reviewed by the Government and school will be able to offer supplies of test kits to make this possible.

The on-site testing is supervised but self-administered and extra care and assistance will be given to any student that needs it. Thanks in advance to our team of volunteers who are making this possible.

So, to clarify, the return dates and testing regime for each year group are stated below:

| | Return date | Test #1 | Test #2 | Home Testing |
|---------|---|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Year 7 | Thursday 2nd September 2021 | Thursday 2 nd September 2021 | w/c Monday 6 th September 2021 | Until the end of September 2021 |
| Year 8 | Monday 6th September 2021 | Monday 6 th September 2021 | w/c Monday 6 th September 2021 | Until the end of September 2021 |
| Year 9 | Monday 6th September 2021* | Monday 6 th September 2021 | w/c Monday 6 th September 2021 | Until the end of September 2021 |
| Year 10 | Monday 6th September 2021 | Monday 6 th September 2021 | w/c Monday 6 th September 2021 | Until the end of September 2021 |
| Year 11 | Friday 3rd September 2021 | Friday 3 rd September 2021 | w/c Monday 6 th September 2021 | Until the end of September 2021 |
| Year 12 | Thursday 2nd September 2021 | Thursday 2 nd September 2021 | w/c Monday 6 th September 2021 | Until the end of September 2021 |
| Year 13 | Friday 3rd September 2021 | Friday 3 rd September 2021 | w/c Monday 6 th September 2021 | Until the end of September 2021 |

*** changed from the earlier plan**

The parents of Years 8-11 have already been asked for consent when school reopened in March (anyone in those year groups who has started since that date will be contacted by telephone).

Year 7 parents will be contacted before the start of term to be asked to complete a short online consent form and Year 12 students are able to give their own consent (aged 16 and above).

Kind regards,

David Cole

Headteacher