

26th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and patience through this difficult time. Whilst our schools have remained open for all those who wished to attend, this has still been a difficult time for pupils, families and staff alike. The restrictions under which we have had to operate have placed significant strain on everybody. I am incredibly proud of the resilience shown by all members of our learning community and feel that in some ways this period of adversity that we have shared has bound us together more strongly than ever before.

On Monday afternoon the Government announced the full reopening of schools from **Monday 8th March**. This is the excellent news that we have been waiting for and we look forward to welcoming everyone back to our schools and restoring a little normality.

Please be reassured that we are constantly reviewing and updating our safety and infection control measures, in line with government guidance, to ensure minimal risk to our pupils and staff, and in order to provide a safe and enjoyable learning environment. To support the national effort to minimise the spread of the coronavirus we will also continue to offer all our staff the opportunity to undertake a twice weekly Lateral Flow Device (LFD) test.

In addition, with the consent and support of parents / carers, we will offer secondary age pupils the opportunity to be involved in similar type testing. Your Headteacher will be writing to parents / carers of secondary age pupils to give more information on the arrangements for this at their own school.

Another piece of good news is that a large proportion of our staff have now received the first dose of their covid vaccination. We hope that this will take us another step along the road to regaining 'normal' learning environments in all our schools.

We must, however, still be vigilant. New variants of coronavirus (COVID-19) appear to be more transmissible, and so we must all continue to follow the government's guidance both at home and at school. If we continue to follow these rules, we can help to reduce any further disruption to pupils and staff, and keep our schools open. Any specific guidance and/or individual return plans will be communicated to you shortly by your school.

Our staff are eager to welcome back all our pupils and please be assured they will do everything possible to ensure that their return is happy, healthy and safe.

We are looking forward to returning to our usual routine and greeting our pupils back to school on Monday 8th March.

Kind regards,



Julian Scholefield
CEO