



18 March 2021

Dear Parents

By the time you are reading this communication, we will have completed in the region of 5,000 Lateral Flow Tests. I know those staff and volunteers who have been involved in the testing process will be mightily relieved it is all complete but they will also be sad to see the operation come to an end. There is a real camaraderie within the testing site. The testers are from a variety of different day jobs and have given up a great deal of their time for this crucial process to have occurred. It is a hard-working and good-humoured group; we are incredibly grateful for the support they have given.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder

We knew we had missed the buzz of normal school life, but we probably didn't realise quite how much. Being back in the classroom this week with a full school, seeing the smiles, the laughs, the humour and the concentration has reminded us all why we decided to teach. We did not choose this profession to be seated in front of a screen all day; that is not normal for us as teachers and it is not normal for young men. The interactions experienced and witnessed this week have felt quite emotional at times. Conversely, perhaps the high fives of the parents on Monday morning have now been replaced by missing the noise and bustle your lads provided in the household. Don't panic, the Easter Break will soon be with us and the carnage will be reignited at home again for a fortnight. The students have returned in good spirits and we are incredibly grateful for the support you have given them at home.

Home Testing

The home testing kits have now all been distributed. Students should do their home testing on a Wednesday and a Sunday evening, ideally before 6pm. Please remind your son to record his result on the government website [here](#) and also on our [MS form](#).

If your son tests positive, please also inform the School at attendance@rgshw.com. Click [here](#) to view last week's letter with further details about testing. We have been asked to continue home testing over the Easter Holidays and more kits will be distributed for this to occur.

Crowdfunding gathering pace

We are delighted at the initial response to this PA project. Thank you very much to the 200 parents who have supported this initiative so far. Your input is invaluable as we look to recover and move forward post Covid. Any support is very welcome. <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/rgshwcrowdfunding2021>

Year 11 Assessments

Year 11 will have no assessments on Monday, it will be a study leave day. The Monday assessments will be moved to Tuesday and Tuesday to Wednesday etc. This means that a number of students who are currently isolating will be able to sit their exams in the Queen's Hall when they are due back on Tuesday. Students will start lessons again on Friday 26 March.

Year 11 and Year 13 leaving dates

As parts of the UK start to open up it is understandable that your thoughts move towards the Summer Holidays. Maybe you are even considering booking a holiday. To aid you in your preparations click [here](#) to see the important dates for Year 11 and [here](#) for the Year 13 dates.

Games and PE lesson

A reminder that students should only be coming in to school in PE Kit on the days they have PE or Games. Many thanks for your support in this matter.

Kind regards

Alex Wallace

Deputy Headmaster