

25 February 2021

Dear Parents,

I must confess I was a little surprised but totally delighted to have the return to school confirmed. I am sure there are mixed emotions for many of you - joy, delight, sadness, angst, even ambivalence! Some of you may be totally distraught at the realisation your Year 9 Physics and Chemistry lessons will have to stop. Perhaps we have generated enough support for an adult online learning platform!

News to share...

### Year 13 Assessments

Can I please encourage parents and sons in the above year group to carefully read the letter from Mr Eve. We held a meeting today and yesterday with Year 13 to hear their views and also to explain the rationale behind the decisions that have been taken. These are complicated times and the solution is not always straight forward. What we can assure you is that any decisions we are making are in the best interests of the students to ensure they have the greatest opportunity to succeed and show their worth. We will be sharing further information about Year 11 assessments shortly.

### Return to school

As you are all no doubt aware, 8 March is the date announced for the start of the return to school. We are required to Lateral Flow Test over 1,400 students 3 times on their return. As you can imagine this is a logistical challenge but certainly not insurmountable. To enable us to do this we will have a staggered return to school. The first tests will be for Year 11 and Year 13 students and these will occur on Friday 5 March to enable them to return to school on Monday 8 March. The rest of the school will be asked to come into school for testing during the week commencing 8 March. Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will make a full return on Monday 15 March. Work for a year group will not be set when the pupils are being tested. After your son has had his third test, he will be issued with home testing kits.

Further details, a privacy notice and timings of the testing will be shared early next week.

### Tired eyes

This morning we shared with our students some useful information about looking after oneself during these heavily online times. Please do click [here](#) for some practical advice.

With kind regards

**Alex Wallace**  
Deputy Headmaster