

02/01/21



## ***Guidance on Staggered Return for Students***

### **Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Staff and Friends of the School**

A Happy New Year to each and every one of you. I hope you all managed to find some time to relax, rest and enjoy time with loved ones. I also hope families found peace in such troubled times. We remain positive that better times are on the horizon.

This week, schools received the news of a change to the government's plans for the return of secondary school students.

We also received information regarding the expectations and logistics of the in-school testing regime that all secondary schools are to implement in the coming weeks.

#### **The Phased Return:**

<b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Inset Day postponed, staff to utilise this time for planning, students still on holiday.
<b>Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Remote Learning for <u>all</u> students. As per the communication on the 18 <sup>th</sup> December: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Independent learning tasks will be on google classrooms from the 5<sup>th</sup> Jan.</li><li>- The remote zoom timetable will begin on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> Jan.</li></ul> Vulnerable students and children of critical workers supervised study in school.
<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Remote Learning for Y7,8,9,10 and 12.  Vulnerable students and children of critical workers supervised study in school (Separate email to follow for identified students)  Return of Y11 and Y13 – Details will be confirmed by 8 <sup>th</sup> January.
<b>Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January</b>	Return of all students – Details will be confirmed by 15 <sup>th</sup> January.

It is worth noting that government policy and thus these plans may change and the school will continue to adapt as quickly and efficiently as it can.

#### **Key Worker and Vulnerable Students:**

We will make contact with all relevant families by email on Monday confirming plans.

#### **Remote Learning:**

We are keen that all students have access to remote learning from the beginning of term.

In Previous weeks I have written at length to families regarding the school's evolving plans for remote learning. We utilise a blended approach to remote learning using an evidence informed combination of some live zoom teaching and some task focussed independent learning. Documentation associated with our approach to remote learning can be found by clicking [here](#).

In addition to the zoom timetable, we have taken the decision to ensure that all Y11 and Y13 students can make zoom contact with their teachers during any of their timetabled lessons. This will allow them to quickly, and effectively make contact with staff regarding the independent tasks that they have been set. This short term measure will be reviewed on Friday the 8<sup>th</sup>.

### **Lateral Flow Testing**

The logistics of setting up a testing facility within the school are challenging. We will do our very best to meet this challenge in order to support the national effort in reducing the spread of the virus. Further communication on this process will be sent out in the coming weeks; in the meantime, the following points may be of interest to you:

- Lateral Flow Tests (LFTs) detect viral load, they are not specific to Covid-19. Any positive LFTs, require students/staff to self-isolate and obtain a specific Covid-19 PCR test.
- Schools are expected to test all staff once a week.
- Schools are expected to test all students (that provide consent) upon return to school. This is the 'Mass Testing' phase. This requires all students to be tested twice with a 3 – 5 gap between tests.
- Schools will also test 'contacts' of a positive case. This is so that students no longer need to be sent home to isolate for 10 days. Such contacts will need to take a test every day for 7 days from the point of contact with a positive individual. Assuming they are negative they may continue their education within school.
- Some students may feel anxious about the testing process, we will reassure and care for all students so that they feel as comfortable as possible.

In-school testing relies on parental consent. Please read the additional letter which contains a hyperlinked consent form to fill out. Please reply as swiftly as possible.

As ever, we thank you for your support and patience during these challenging times. We will continue to work together for the good of our young people.

Best Wishes,

Tom Pinnington – Head of School

### **A New Year's Prayer**

*Dear Lord,*

*I ask from you a year overflowing with the graces and blessings of heaven, for your spiritual progress, then good health for the accomplishment of God's will.*

*Amen*

*St Julie Billiart – Founder of the Notre Dame Order*