



19th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Can I start by thanking everyone for their support over the past week or so in getting the students back into school. It is lovely to have all of the students with us and the buildings feel full once again. We are going to continue with the current bubble locations for each year group after Easter which will give the students continuity.

We have been taking some time to think about the rest of the academic year and we hope to have the chance to run some of the normal summer programme linked to sports days and celebration events so long as it is safe to do so and the government are happy to lift current restrictions. We also hope to be able to return to our House system and vertical tutor groups just as soon as we can. In the meantime I would like to draw to your attention some key dates coming up around the end of term together with some detail on homework recording and home testing arrangements.

Year 11 Interviews

Year 11 students will have the second of their one-to-one interviews with staff, commencing on Monday 22nd March and finishing by the Easter holidays. Staff will discuss next steps around Sixth Form or college places, along with work placements or apprenticeships as appropriate.

INSET Day on Thursday 1st April

School will finish term with an INSET Day on Thursday 1st April, with Good Friday on 2nd April. On Thursday 1st April, we are **opening for Year 11 and 13 students** to come in and study if they so wish between the hours of 8.35am and 12.30pm. Some subjects will have staff available where specific work is possible; the detail around this will be given in lessons and via a separate letter.

Study Day on Thursday 8th April for Years 11 and 13

We are running another opportunity similar to that on the INSET Day on Thursday 8th April for students in Year 11 and 13 to come in and study. The day will run from 9am to 3.30pm and a packed lunch will be required. Again, further details will follow.

Homework Recording

As you are aware, we have been using Microsoft Teams for home learning and have taken the decision to continue to use this to record homework for students. This is a move away from using Insight for this and in the short term this will mean that only students rather than parents and carers will be able to view the homework set. We are going to develop our interface further in the future now that we have Microsoft Teams as our main tool and will be in a position where we can be even more transparent with everyone around key information coming from ourselves.

Student Testing

Students will shortly be moving to twice weekly, rapid COVID-19 testing at home following their first three supervised tests on site in school. Up to one in three people who have COVID-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading it without knowing. Getting into a regular habit of testing twice a week will help stop the virus spreading, keeping your family and friends safer. We will be sending home COVID-19 testing kits with your child on the day they have their last school test. These will be wrapped securely and we will tell students that we expect them to be delivered to you unopened. Please make sure your child tests themselves **twice a week, 3-5 days apart, in the morning before school if possible and, if not, the evening beforehand.**

Your child should also **continue testing twice a week, at home, throughout the Easter school holidays**. If your child has not been tested at school yet, then please get in touch with us so that we can arrange a time for them to be tested on site, before beginning home testing. This does not replace testing for those with symptoms. If you have symptoms you must self-isolate immediately, book a PCR test and follow national guidelines.

Reporting results

It is really important that test results are reported online straight away, even if your child's result is negative or void. It is easy to do at www.gov.uk/report-covid-19-result. Results can also be reported via telephone by calling 119 (free from mobiles and landlines). Lines are open every day, 7am to 11pm. The test results also need to be reported to school using the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=qpmW0ReG40mv30Ta8JBWERSqt3cPrdIGjq30gCz4vzIUQIJFQkpaVOVSRUdTSTIHNEVHWEtRMkw5OS4u>

Testing for parents/carers, households and bubbles twice a week

A reminder that regular rapid testing is now also available for parents/carers, their households and support or childcare bubbles. The government is encouraging all families to participate in twice weekly testing to help stop the spread. Parents/carers and other adults in the household can access tests by:

- Ordering tests online www.gov.uk/order-school-household-tests.
- Getting an assisted test at work, if it is available.
- Attending a test site to get tested (where you will be able to see how to take the test) or pick up tests to do at home.

To find out more on school household testing, visit <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>. We continue to encourage everyone to take part in regular COVID-19 testing.

The Death of Sarah Everard

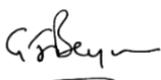
Many of you will have understandably followed the events of the weekend around Clapham Common in London. We are aware that the whole country has been shocked by this and that we would want to work with students around the really important area of violence and intimidation towards women. We are planning on delivering an assembly next week and will follow this up with work with our students at a variety of levels as you might expect.

Parent Interactions with School

We have looked to keep Parents' Evenings in place and to be adaptable, running other sessions throughout the year, including during lockdown, to respond to the situation we find ourselves in and I am aware that some of the original dates in the calendar that was published have needed to be changed. We are looking at this for the period between Easter and the summer and we will publish a new set of dates just as soon as we have them.

Can I finish by wishing you and your families a good Easter break with a hope that the government will allow some further easing of lockdown arrangements for us all and to remind you that the summer term starts on Monday 19th April.

With best wishes



Gareth Beynon
Headteacher