

23rd February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

Following on from the government announcement and roadmap for the phased return of society back to a new normal, there was clearly a significant amount of information related to around the return of students to school. As always, leaders in educational establishments received the information at the same time as general public and thereby my senior team are now working through the detail to how we can return your children back into school from the 8th March.

For clarity, the government has requested that all schools build in a staggered return for young people in order that children can be tested for covid-19 before they return to the classroom. This creates complex logistical issues but as always, I am confident that we will find solutions that support the safe return of our school community. I will communicate with you as soon as possible regarding the structure and processes that we will deploy from 8th March onwards so in the meantime can I thank you for your patience in this matter and we look forward to welcoming our young people back onto school premises from this date onwards.

Summer Exam Series 2021

For those parents whose children are facing the summer exam series, we have been informed that the outcome of the consultation and clarity from the exam boards should be available in the near future. I am aware that many of our young people and families are clearly anxious at this time and were expecting further information to be released as part of last night's announcement. We have not received further guidance at this time but once we have this information I will communicate with those concerned to how we will best support each and every individual student to reach their full potential and be given the best opportunity of attaining their results in the summer.

Further advise from Cheshire West and Chester Public Health Team on symptoms for COVID-19 testing

We have received the following information from the local authority - Due to the ongoing high rates of COVID-19 in the community, CW&C Council Public Health Team have issued local advice to residents to book a COVID-19 PCR test if they experience any of the following symptoms: shortness of breath, muscle or body aches, fatigue, sore throat, headache, nasal congestion or runny nose, diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting.

This advice is locally issued advice and there are currently no changes in national guidance on symptoms, therefore:

- Staff and pupils with these extra symptoms are not required to seek a PCR test in the same way as they would if they had any of the three main COVID symptoms. However, we would encourage them to seek a PCR test
- Staff and pupils do not need to self-isolate if they have any of the additional symptoms (unless these are alongside one of the three COVID symptoms)
- Staff and pupils can continue to attend work/school while waiting for their PCR test results unless they are not well enough
- Contact tracing should be completed once the positive PCR test result is received for 48hrs prior to the test and 10 days after the test

With kind regards

K Simpson
Headteacher