



## Marden High School

Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Dear All,

Following our half term break it has been good to be back in school and see once again familiar student and staff faces, and to start thinking about what the rest of this term is going to look like. This half term will have two quite distinct halves, with a period of transition from remote learning, to having students back into their classrooms.

The Prime Minister announced yesterday (Monday 22 February) that the Government has set out its plan for the return of all pupils to schools and colleges, as part of the [roadmap for leaving lockdown](#). Students will start to return to face-to-face education from Monday 8 March.

The Government has asked that all students take coronavirus tests as they return to the classroom from Monday 8 March, and has given schools the discretion on how to phase the return of the students over the week beginning 8 March to allow them to be tested on return. This is something we are currently planning for, and we will communicate further details of this to you all in due course. A link to our Lateral Flow Test consent form will be emailed to all parents in the next couple of days, and we appreciate your cooperation in returning this.

Our system of controls will continue to support us all in reducing risk, including ventilating occupied spaces, continuing with enhanced cleaning, and retaining bubbles of students. Over the next two weeks we will be reminding our whole community to continue to do everything we can to adhere to these measures, because it is vital that they are implemented well and consistently. Before 8th March we will also be reviewing our Covid-19 Risk Assessment. Reminders of procedures and protocols will be shared with everyone before they return to school, and it will be very important for children to become familiar with these measures once again.

In addition to the system of controls, the Government recommends that face coverings should be worn by staff and pupils when moving around the premises, in corridors and communal areas. We have been used to this and will continue with it for the foreseeable future. The Government is now also recommending the use of face coverings in classrooms and other teaching spaces. Again,

during lockdown we have got used to this, and so we will continue to do this.

The Government has said that there will be more information later this week, setting out further measures for immediate support to children and schools. We are also looking forward to hearing news from Ofqual on further details of the alternative arrangements to exams, following the consultation which we have been a part of.

So for the next two weeks we will continue with high quality provision of remote learning including live streaming of lessons. Whilst I'm sure it will flash by, two weeks is still potentially a good stretch of time for quality learning to be taking place, and so it is important that students continue to work hard and stick to effective routines.

Our priority for the rest of this term is the same as it always is - providing the very best pastoral care and learning environment for our children. It's just that over the next few weeks there is a little added turbulence, which by now, I know we will take in our stride. The winds of change may or may not be upon us, but, as William Arthur Ward put it, "the pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts the sails."

There will be further information in my newsletter later this week.



Mr M. Snape  
Head Teacher