

23rd February 2021

Dear Parents/Carers and Staff,

Updates

- We are sure you will be aware that yesterday afternoon, the government announced its plans for pupils to return to schools in England from the 8th March.
- There is an expectation for all pupils that are able to do so, to return to school for the remainder of the school year. We are very hopeful that this will be the last time that we are in a position of having to reduce the number of pupils in school.
- We have three inset days, which are scheduled for Monday 8th March, Tuesday 9th March and Wednesday 10th March. These days have been planned for over a year and include training being provided to staff from a leading international expert. We are not able to recover the cost of this program as payment has been made in advance to secure this opportunity. We will therefore be continuing with these inset days as they offer a unique opportunity to increase the professional development of our staff, which positively impacts upon all of our pupils. **The school will fully open to pupils from Thursday 11th March across all of our sites.**
- Since January, in school we have been testing our staff and some of our secondary aged pupils that are able to administer lateral flow tests twice a week for Covid-19. This provision will be able to continue, however the government has also announced a change in how secondary and special schools administer these tests. Further information on this is being released on Friday but we are expecting to receive test kits that staff and pupils can administer at home. As we receive more information we will keep you updated as to how this is being rolled out and how, if you would like test kits at home for you to administer with your children, we can get these distributed to you.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding throughout these extremely challenging times.

The Senior Leadership Team

