

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you will have seen on the news things have changed for our start in January.

I wanted to let you know the following;

On line teaching will be in place from January 5th for all year groups, 5 hours a day following the normal timetable. Children should log on and start learning from 8.30 am. Work will be set through Satchel one by your child's normal teacher.

Teachers will be asked to monitor questions, give support and feedback as well as provide video lessons when possible. They will as a result not also be able to carry out the Covid testing process themselves.

Kingsmead non teaching staff will be overseeing the process of testing. They may be supported by volunteers who are subject to a safeguarding risk assessment by the school. We will share this process with you on the 4th of January.

Progress leaders will be present during the testing process for their year groups for well being support. More details of this will follow on the 4th of January.

All exams scheduled for students from the 11th January will go ahead as normal including one to one support before hand with students own subject teachers.

We are revisiting the plans for rapid testing on Saturday morning. This will give the government more time to release information to us. We will try to use the extra capacity given to us by on line learning to speed up the testing process. I will be able to tell you more on how we can achieve this on Saturday afternoon.

We will aim to offer 2 rounds of testing to all children and staff by the 18th of January so that we can try to ensure all staff and children a safe return.

We will start testing with year 11 and 13 because they will be the first to return to school for face to face teaching on the 11th of January.

From the 4th of January we will start testing staff.

By the 18th of January we are expecting all children in years 7 to 13 to be back to face to face in school teaching.

Going forward we are expecting to have the ability to test close contacts of positive cases within school so that they do not have to isolate for 10 days. This will be after the mass testing of tge whole school.

So in summary:

All children should start on line learning at 8.30 am 5th of January.

The school will plan for all children to undergo Covid 19 testing from the 5th January to the 15 th January so that staff, students and our community can prevent transmission of the virus subject to parental permission.

Year 11 and 13 will return to face to face teaching from the 11th January

Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will return to face to face teaching from the 18th of January.

I know how difficult all of this is for our students and parents. However I believe that the best way that we can try to keep everyone safe is to fully engage in the testing process. By testing as many members of our community as possible we can make the return safer for all.

Finally can I ask that if you intend your child to take part in the testing process you return the form along with a signature to the email address provided in the last letter. Without your permission in writing we cannot include your child in this testing.

Best Wishes

Maria Mincher
Head of School