



10 February 2021

## **Update on school provision and further information on Term 4**

Dear Parent and Carers

Once again I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to you all for your commitment and support in continuing to work with school during this period of remote education. I have great admiration for our families who are managing the complications of home life, work commitments and children's remote learning at home.

### **Remote Education Provision**

In the recent remote education survey of parent and carers we received an excellent response. I am pleased to report that 81% of parents and carers were either satisfied or very satisfied with remote education provision at this time. We are using the findings of the survey to help us understand what additional support can be offered to enhance our students' learning and well-being. As a reminder, if your child continues to experience digital access or device problems, please do not hesitate to contact school. Your child's form tutor is the first point of contact who should be able to either resolve these concerns or signpost to other colleagues in school who will contact you directly with help and support. The school's staff remain resolute and passionate to do all that is possible in support of our children and families.

### **School Opening**

You will be aware that we are awaiting further updates from the government about wider school opening. School will be closed to all students during the half term holiday but will reopen for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers on Monday 22 February 2021. It is hoped that we will receive information about wider opening for more students on this date. The Prime Minister previously stated that there may be some wider school opening beginning on Monday 8 March 2021.

### **Feedback to Parents and Carers**

The Ofqual (examinations and qualifications) consultation process closes on 22 February 2021, therefore we should have a clearer idea of how our students in examination years will be assessed in conjunction with teacher assessed grading. There will be a series of parent engagement meetings scheduled for Years 11, 12 and 13 as soon as the detail is clear from Ofqual.

We expect parental engagement meetings for Year 7 and 9 parents to go ahead as scheduled in the school calendar. Parents and carers of Year 8 students will be receiving information from Mr Melton (Senior Assistant Headteacher Curriculum and Achievement) this week in preparation for options choices.

### **Covid-19 testing using lateral flow tests (LFTs)**

School continues to offer lateral flow tests to all returning students and weekly testing of staff on school site. When wider school opening is confirmed, school expects to continue to offer this provision. The testing process has the potential to make significant contributions to limiting the transmission of the virus amongst individuals in the community.



It does seem that we are getting closer to brighter days as the vaccine roll out continues in our communities. We are looking forward to welcoming back our students to school. They have missed a great deal and one another, as we have missed them. Please be assured that there will be plans in place to support our children as they get back on track with their learning. At these times I believe it is important to look forwards with optimism and aspiration rather than dwelling on what has been 'lost'.

Thank you for all your support and stay safe and well.

Kind regards

Mr A J Knowles  
Headteacher