

12 March 2021

Dear parents and carers

The end of the first week back.

Thank you for all your support in helping us to get to this position where every year group is now back in school. Our top two priorities at this time are **collective safety** and **quality learning**.

Starting with our focus on collective safety, I really appreciate your consent to put the asymptomatic testing programme we have in place. All staff are now being tested twice per week and we have tested around 95% of students in school at least once this week.

I am pleased to report to you that we have had **no positive cases** this week as a result of this testing.

As you know, each student where parents have consented, will be tested a total of three times by the end of next week. After that you will need to oversee testing from home. We are still waiting for the home testing kits to be sent to school, which should happen early next week. We will be in touch again as soon as we are able to outline what you need to do.

With a focus on quality learning, I have been impressed how quickly the vast majority of students have settled back into the routines of getting to school and lessons time and getting down to their work in lessons.

Children thrive on clear expectations and consistency. It has been quite remarkable how quickly most have adapted so quickly to being back in school.

However, I understand how challenging the last few months will have been for you at home, for some there will have been added personal challenges. If you have concerns about how your child is coping back in school please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

Spring is tantalisingly within sight and so although your child may need a coat to come to school students will not be allowed to wear their coats in lessons.

Please ensure your child has a clean mask and a spare one with them every day. Students have been impressive in keeping to the requirement of wearing masks in lessons as well as around the school site.

Punctuality to school has been very good, but some students are cutting it very fine to arrive on time. Students should aim to arrive for 8.15 am to get their hands washed before the start of the school day. The school gates are locked at 8.30 am and any student arriving after that time will be deemed late.

Our school values of **caring**, **learning** and **succeeding** are very pertinent as we return to something more normal. Next week will be the normal timetable within which we will need to complete the rounds of testing. We expect to be finished across all year groups by Thursday.

Please see the accompanying letter from Mrs Shaw about the Options process.

Yours faithfully,
Kieran Larkin
Headteacher

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING