



Headteacher
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the opportunity to succeed

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30th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Return to School and Testing Information

I hope you had a lovely Christmas and have been able to spend time with those most precious to you. It hardly seems possible that the festivities we spend so long preparing for are now nearing an end.

The final plan on the re-opening of schools has just been announced and this means that for the next two weeks all our Year 7-10 students will remain at home. The expectation of the government is that students in Years 7-10 will access online work from Monday 11th January. We will send more details regarding accessing online work once we have these details. Year 11, 12 and 13 students will be attending classes online from Tuesday 5th January and should return for face to face teaching from Monday 11th January. In the meantime, we still need to move on with our intention to implement testing for all staff and students.

Over the past week or so I have joined the online meetings, Q and A sessions and will also participate in the training videos regarding the testing plans when they too are made available.

I am very grateful to the many who have volunteered to support with the testing. Once I know the exact requirements I will put together a team to begin to carry out the testing. All those involved in the testing will need to participate in training. Once the details of the specifics are shared with us we will be able to ensure that the teams we put together are appropriately trained and prepared for the testing regime in our school.

The expected delivery of the tests to schools is from 4th January onwards. The intention is to test all staff and students before the return to school of all year groups.

The decision to test in schools is optional for schools and we have decided to go ahead and implement this because we believe that it will help reduce the time close contacts spend in self isolation. The testing is optional for both staff and students. There is no requirement to be tested but if identified as a close contact of a positive case you would be required to self-isolate for 10 days from your last contact with the positive case. Those close contacts who consent to the test will be tested every day for 7 days from the last contact with the positive case. If the tests are negative then the student/staff member may continue to keep coming into school.

I have attached an instructional leaflet with some more information.

If you are happy for your child to be tested, please fill in the Google form [LINK](#) to register your child for the test and help us plan appointment times. Please also complete the consent statement (attached), one per student, and return it to the school either by email to cread@sandhurst.bracknell-forest.sch.uk or in person from Monday 4th January.

Those taking the test will be supervised. The 'lateral flow' tests are quick and easy using a swab of the nose and throat. Results (which take around half an hour from testing) will be shared directly with staff and pupils participating. Where participants are under 16, parents or legal guardians will also be informed.

With regard to the final information, announced today, regarding the return to school, the plan is for all year groups to return for face to face teaching on 18th January.

The students in Years 7-10 who may come into school between 5th and 15th January school are:

- Vulnerable students i.e. those on a Child In Need Plan or Child Protection Plan or those Looked After
- Students with an EHCP
- Children of critical workers who cannot safely access education at home

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There are more details on these criteria in the letter sent on 18th December and here is the [LINK](#) from that letter enabling you to sign up to access this support. Should the details for return dates change again we will be in touch to update you on arrangements.

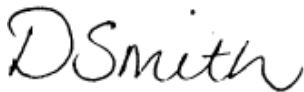
Students who have external exams in January will be contacted on Monday 4th January with arrangements for preparation for these exams. Please continue your own revision for these as so far, there have been no changes to the dates for any exams.

HPV vaccinations will go ahead as planned and we will contact you on 4th January with further details.

I for one did not predict this back in March and watched the announcements today hoping to be able to update you as soon as I had the information. I wish you all the very best as 2020 comes to an end and hope we can all look forward, under the circumstances, to the best possible new term and better times on the horizon for all.

Happy New Year to you all.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs D Smith
Headteacher

