

24 February 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

Re-opening of school to all students - week commencing 8th March

I hope this letter finds you well, and for the first time in quite a while looking forward to a gradual relaxation of the austere but necessary safety measures which have been in place for over a year now.

Further to the recent announcement by Boris Johnson on the wider "re-opening" of society and the publication of his government's road-map to the lifting of all COVID restrictions by 21st June, I wanted to get in touch as soon as possible to inform you that we are working very hard in line with the government's guidelines to ensure all students will be back in full-time, face-to-face education during the week of 8th March.

Because of the size of the task of testing all students on their return, and the staffing capacity required to make sure this runs smoothly, there is a strong likelihood that the return will have to be staggered across year groups, with one or two year groups returning each day, so that by the back end of the week, all students will be back in school as normal. As soon as the logistics of this have been finalised, I will issue a more detailed information letter, which will also cover safety measures, testing arrangements and school day organisation.

It is also likely that we will have details of the finalised arrangements for the awarding of GCSE grades by the end of this week.

It is my intention to be in touch with you all by close of play Monday 1st March to clarify precisely what we have planned for the following week.

I know a good many of you will want to contact us to ask about the arrangements – however, until approval has been provided for our proposed re-opening plan, there is no clarity available.

Internet safety

Over the next week or so, students will continue to learn on-line through Teams and various other applications, from home. I wanted just to reiterate the importance of on-line safety and security whilst this continues to be the case, and to ensure students are doing everything they can to protect themselves from harmful content on the internet. It remains vital that students are not divulging their passwords or other confidential information over the internet, even with their friends, as this can compromise integrity. Nationally, there has been an increase in the level of online abuse being experienced by children, and we would like to ensure we all remain alert to the dangers of the on-line community.

I thank you in advance for your patience at this time and look forward to welcoming students back into the building to learn.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Mitchell', written in a cursive style.

Mr J Mitchell
Principal