

23rd February 2021

Dear Parent and Carer

I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well. I hope also that your child was able to enjoy a break from school, especially their computer screen, over the half term holiday.

You may already be aware that last night the Prime Minister confirmed that all schools in England will re-open fully on Monday 8th March. This is excellent news and we are really looking forward to getting the students back to school safely. As well as returning to face to face learning, we know that many students have also been missing that all important social contact with their peer groups.

To help facilitate the full and safe return of students, the Department for Education has asked schools to support testing for all students. Specifically, they have asked schools to test students three times during the initial weeks of their return. Since the start of term we have been successfully conducting the lateral flow tests on students and staff who have been attending school. We have a fantastic team of Support Staff who have been doing a great job putting the students and staff taking the tests at ease.

Whilst we are not able to insist that all students are tested we do, however, strongly encourage everyone to give consent and help us keep everyone in our school and wider community safe. **We would kindly request that all consents are provided 48 hours before the students are due to come in and take their test.** Students who are aged 16 or over are able to give verbal consent themselves in school, however we would still prefer that this is given for them in advance. If you have not already given your consent, here is the link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSffU4MwwARpsgjJ9kpiIMCkxSN1YtWxqjzpUBr7xZsq2qhPug/viewform>

The Department for Education has confirmed that schools do not have to begin testing until Monday 8th March and that schools can operate a phased return for year groups from that date in order to facilitate this. Whilst we appreciate that flexibility, as a larger school with additional year groups in the 6th Form, it would concern us that operating a phased start could mean a significant and unnecessary delay for some students. In the circumstances, therefore, it seems sensible for us to **conduct the first test before all of the students return** on Monday 8th March as we have them in stock and our team are ready to go. The second and third tests will then be carried out on days when they are already back at school over the following two weeks. The dates allocated to conduct the first tests are:

- Friday 26th February: 6th Form
- Monday 1st March: Year 11
- Tuesday 2nd March: Year 10
- Wednesday 3rd March: Year 9
- Thursday 4th March: Year 8
- Friday 5th March: Year 7

To enable us to complete the testing in a timely and orderly manner, each Tutor group has been allocated a specific time slot to attend. It is very important that everyone sticks to the testing schedule at the bottom of this letter. The students do not need to wear their uniform for this testing but they do need to have their face covering ready to put on before they enter the building. The testing will take place in the Sports Centre and students are asked to report to the side entrance (opposite the Dance Studio) no earlier than 10 minutes before their allocated testing session begins.

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The students will be given a clear explanation of how the test is conducted and exactly what they need to do. We conducted 990 tests last half term, so this experience will be very useful as we now prepare to conduct over 5,000 tests on students and staff in the coming weeks. After the test has been taken, the students will be free to leave. The result of the test will be sent directly from the NHS to the mobile phone number that was supplied on the Consent Form and is usually received within 30 minutes of the test result being recorded. We also get the results and will make contact with the parent/carer of any student who tests positive.

After the initial three tests have been completed in school, the government has indicated that parents will be able to test secondary school aged children a further two times per week at home. We will share further details on that process when they are available, including how parents can access the testing kits. The Department for Education has today advised that home testing kits can only be made available to students, who have taken part in the school testing programme.

Whilst the news of a full return to school comes as a great relief, it is still very important that we remain vigilant in our measures to help combat the virus. The national school closure was enforced to help reduce the risk that students might play in community transmission. We still have to follow the advised adapted working practices to minimise that risk, which include:

- Ensuring that a face covering is worn in all indoor communal areas.
- Ensuring that hands are sanitized on entry (and exit) to all rooms.
- Ensuring that students arrive and depart from school at the correct time and using the specified entry and exit points: a reminder of these times and places can be found at the bottom of this letter.
- Ensuring that indoor spaces are well ventilated.
- Keeping students in their year group 'bubbles' when they are in indoor areas.

In addition to the above points, which were already in operation, the government has further strengthened its recommendations in relation to face coverings. This now means that students will be required to wear face coverings in any indoor area areas where 2 metre social distancing is not possible. Please note that this will mean that face coverings will now be required to be worn in most classrooms. Students who have already notified us about a medical exemption do not need to inform us again. We will remind the students of all these key points in their tutorial sessions over the next two weeks.

We do understand that some students and parents may feel anxious about the full return to school and I would encourage you to make contact with your child's Tutor or Head of School if there is something specific that you would like to share. We want to support everyone as best we can in the next part of this process. The government has confirmed that all students are expected to attend school and that normal attendance procedures will apply. Attendance at Budmouth during the Autumn Term was excellent and actually the highest it has ever been.

Thank you for supporting us as we make the preparations necessary to get the school ready for all of our students and for all that you have done in supporting and encouraging your children with their remote learning.

Yours sincerely



David Herbert

Att.



**Reminder of timings and entry/departure locations from Monday 8th March:**

<b>Year 7</b>	Will still be based in Clare Tower and will arrive (and depart) from the Main Gate, walk through the playground to the Clare Hall area and from there go straight to class, which will start at <b>9am</b> . They will have their lunch in Clare Hall. Year 7 will depart at 2.50pm.
<b>Year 8</b>	Will be based in the Hub (Science) and will arrive (and depart) from the Everdene Gate and students will be asked to line up in front of the Hub at <b>8.55am</b> . They will have lunch in Everdene Hall. Year 8 will depart at 2.55pm.
<b>Year 9</b>	Will remain in the Hub (Maths). They will continue to arrive (and depart) via the Main Gate, but we will ask them to walk in front of the Sports Hall and down towards the Hub. They will not be required to line up before lessons which will start at <b>8.40am</b> , but must remain between the Hub and 6th Form block if they arrive early. Year 9 will continue to have lunch in Clare Hall. Year 9 will depart at 2.40pm.
<b>Year 10</b>	Start time is <b>8.20am</b> (students meet for a line up before being taken to Period 1). They will arrive via the Main Gate and walk to their playground meeting point using the pathway between the Sports Hall and Clare Tower. Year 10 will eat their lunch in Everdene Hall. Year 10 will depart from the Main Gate or Everdene Gate at 2.25pm.
<b>Year 11</b>	Start time is <b>8.30am</b> (students will go directly to their Period 1 lesson). Year 11 will arrive via Everdene Gate and will walk to their area of the Hub using the main walkway between Everdene and the Sports Hall. Year 11 lunch will be served/eaten in the Hub Café. They will depart from the Main Gate or Everdene Gate at 2.30pm.
<b>6th Form</b>	Start time is <b>8.30am</b> (students will go directly to their Period 1 lesson). 6th Form students will arrive and depart via Everdene Gate and students will then go to their classes via the service road behind 'Chuckles'. Their lunch will continue to be served and eaten in the 6th Form Cafe. Their finish time is 2.35pm