

30th December 2020

Dear Barney Parent and Guardian,

Firstly, I hope this finds you and your families well, and that you have been able to enjoy the festive period.

As promised, I am writing to give you an **update** prior to the start of Lent term next Wednesday 6th January, following on from the Government's announcement regarding schools on 17th December and then the latest announcement this afternoon. As you may have followed in the news over Christmas, there has not been as much clarity as we may have wished for, but we now know that all secondary school students will remain at home until Monday 18th January, with those in Years 11 and 13 returning on Monday 11th January.

With regards to the implementation of mass asymptomatic **testing** in schools, we have reviewed all the guidance that has been shared. Again, whilst it is not as fulsome as we would have hoped, as long as we are in receipt of the training, tests and PPE required (we have had it confirmed that we are eligible for all these), then we are confident that we will have our testing site operational to test pupils and staff as necessary and on time. The Bursar will be in touch toward the end of next week with more details on this.

On the **educational front** we are also extremely confident, following the IT investment the School made at the beginning of this academic year, and through our previous experiences, that we are in a position to seamlessly continue with your child/ren's education regardless of year group. Each and every class is already established on MS Teams, and staff are fully geared up and experienced about how best to deliver optimum home learning.

As such, the purpose of this email is to confirm the following:

All Senior School pupils will commence term from 8.30am next Wednesday 6th January following our learning@home programme.

The Deputy Heads (Academic and Pastoral) will be in touch with the pupils on Monday afternoon (all parents will be copied in) with the timetable for live lessons and assignments and the structure of each day, as well as expectations for what we hope will be a short time learning from home.

The **Mock exams** for **Years 11 & 13** will commence from Monday 11th January. The exams that were due to be sat next week will be added to the end of the timetable – the amended timetable will be shared by Dr Truss next Monday. In the meantime, they will have live lessons with their teachers.

Boarders: Having had the pleasure of 12 boarders' company over the holiday period, we look forward to welcoming back the rest of the boarding community as originally planned. Mr Lavery, our Head of Boarding, will be in touch shortly with his welcome back message.

Key Workers' children: We will continue to provide support for those Key Workers who cannot work from home. We will keep those children in their bubbles and they will access their learning@home programme from school. An email will be sent on Monday regarding this.

I hope this helps to clarify matters as best as possible. To confirm, the Bursar (Key Workers) and the Deputy Heads of School (Academic and Pastoral) will be in touch by the end of Monday 4th January.

In the meantime, please enjoy the New Year and let's wish for a more prosperous 2021, and we look forward to the start of term next Wednesday 6th January.

Yours,

Tony