



17<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

The Education Minister has written to schools to offer some information regarding pupils return to school in January 2022.

The Minister has informed us that the first two days of the Spring term, Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022 will be designated as planning days so that schools can plan for the safe return of staff and students. Even though the priority is on ensuring minimal disruption to education, we have to acknowledge the current level of uncertainty regarding the impact of the new Covid variant. As it stands at the moment, we are expecting pupils to be attending school for face to face provision on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January. I think it is inevitable that more information will come out regarding the variant over the coming weeks and I will update you with any changes to this plan when schools reopen for staff on 4<sup>th</sup> January.

When pupils return, we will continue to recommend the use of face coverings in school. We would also urge pupils to Lateral Flow test prior to starting back on the first day and then 3 times weekly. All of these measures are designed to maximise the safety of everybody in the school building and I would appreciate your support in ensuring your child follows these guidelines.

### **GCSE examinations**

January examinations are still going ahead. We will use the first two days to review our procedures and seating plans for these examinations. Most Year 10 pupils are due to sit their English Literature on 11<sup>th</sup> January and 41 Year 11 pupils are due to sit ICT on 21<sup>st</sup> January.

It is a shame that my final letter of the term again revolves around Covid, however I do not want to take away from the fantastic effort the children have made since September. This term has been extremely productive and the attitude and behaviour of the pupils, in uncertain times, has been excellent.

Again, I would like to thank you for your continued support and I hope that you have a restful and enjoyable Christmas break.

Kind Regards  
Shaun Clarke  
Headteacher

## HEADTEACHER:

MR. S. CLARKE

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