



Trinity School

A Church of England
Academy

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Ms. Jo Hawkin
Headteacher

24th February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you had a safe half term holiday and that students were able to have a good break, ready for the new half term. As you will know secondary schools will be returning from 8th March on a phased basis and we are looking forward to welcoming students back to school.

We are busy in school, working our way through the latest government guidance to plan for this to happen safely. The return involves students being tested three times each using Lateral Flow Devices (LFD) and this is, as you can imagine, a logistical challenge for us, given the size of the school. With potentially 1650 students to be tested three times, three to five days apart, there will be some disruption to the return to classrooms. Our aim is to complete the first test as quickly as safety allows, but we know from the pilot testing we undertook on 4th January that it will take approximately four days to test each child once, using at least 24 Trinity staff volunteers to man 'pods' and more to supervise students, process results and contact parents if required. We are unlikely to have the volunteer workforce we had during the pilot and must be able to maintain safe ratios for classes whilst staff are involved in testing. Staff will also be required to continue to supervise vulnerable children and the children of critical workers during this time and provide remote learning for those at home. We ask that you bear with us as we work hard to get students back into lessons as soon as practically possible.

Although the testing is voluntary, I would strongly encourage students to take part. Every positive case that is identified by the testing will make the school community safer and will help to avoid disruption to learning that happens when students have to self-isolate by being a close contact of a positive case at school. We hope that by testing students in a safe, staggered way before year groups return, we will avoid further disruption at a later date. Students will also be provided with home testing kits to test themselves twice a week, which will add to everyone's security at school when everyone is back. We are likely to need your updated consent for testing next week and we will send the details of how testing will work at the same time.

The government's priority for students returning is for older students who are studying for exams to be back in school first. This means that students in Years 10 to 13 will be tested first and will be the first to return, with Key Stage 3 students coming back to school later. We know that families need to plan, so our hope is to update you about start dates and times as soon as possible. We will also be updating our risk assessments in light of the new guidance and will re-send updated information next week. Students will receive safety information as they arrive, but many of the precautions we had in place through the Autumn term will still be in place, including the use of the year group bubble areas.

For those students currently using the Trinity hub, provision will continue and parents/carers will need to book places in the same way as now. Those students will rejoin their year group as they return. As there is still a 'stay at home' message in place, this provision remains an essential service to be used only where necessary.

During the week of the phased return, those students who are not back in school will be provided with remote learning, some of which will be independent study to allow for staff supervision of testing, the hub and the students that have already come back to school. I hope you understand the need for caution at this time. The support you have shown so far has been hugely appreciated by us all.

Yours faithfully

Ms. Jo Hawkin
Headteacher