

Dear Parents,

I am sure many of you will have watched with interest the Prime Minister's announcement tonight about a return to school for all pupils from **Monday 8th March**. I wanted to write as soon as possible to make you aware of the key points.

- All Juniors and Nursery & Infants pupils will return to school on Monday 8th March;
- Senior School pupils will return during the week beginning 8th March, and will be offered one lateral flow test in school before returning to lessons;
- They will then be offered two further lateral flow tests in school when they resume face to face teaching;
- Following this secondary school pupils will be issued with home testing kits so that they are able to undertake twice weekly testing at home;
- Staff will also be able to take tests twice weekly.

The control measures as relate to schools have been also been strengthened further:

- Staff and students in secondary schools are advised to wear face coverings in all areas, including classrooms, where social distancing cannot be maintained as a temporary extra measure.
- Staff and pupils in the "extremely clinically vulnerable" category are not to attend school.

The guidance issued to schools tonight makes it clear that schools have discretion with how to carry out the return to school for secondary pupils in the week beginning 8th March. We will now be discussing the best way of doing this at our Senior Leadership Team meeting this Wednesday, 24th February, and will provide firmer details on this for parents later this week. We will also be updating our risk assessment.

As it has been throughout the crisis, the safety of our pupils, staff and by extension the whole OHGS community, remains our top priority. I do believe that this is good news and we will be seeking to facilitate this return to classrooms in the safest way possible.

Yours sincerely

Mr Craig JD Mairs
Principal