



24<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

## Return to School – w/c 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

As expected earlier this week, the Prime Minister has now confirmed the wider reopening of schools.

In order to bring all students and staff back to school as safely as possible, we need to coordinate our return arrangements with the *Mass Testing* programme. As originally planned at the start of term, we will be offering [asymptomatic testing](#) to all students and staff to support the identification of otherwise undetected positive cases. Being tested is not a condition of return, but we strongly encourage it. We will be conducting the first of three on site tests for those who have consented between 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March 2021. If you wish to consent for your child to be tested in school you can still do so by [completing this form](#) by 9.00am on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021. If you have already consented, you do not need to do so again. We will separately send you details of the date and time of your child's first test nearer the time. The first test will be carried out and your child should return home immediately afterwards. **Remote Learning will continue for all students on these three days, 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> March 2021** (although there may be some disruption to live lessons as a number of staff will be required on site to support with *Mass Testing*), **and then all students will return to school on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021** following their regular timetable (Week B) with the same staggered timings as last term (8.20am – 2.30pm for Years 7-9 and 9.30am – 3.40pm for Years 10-13). The second and third tests will take place between 11<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> March 2021, with 3-5 days between consecutive tests. From w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021, students will be provided with two test kits per week for self-administration at home. Attendance from 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 is compulsory and your child should only be absent from school if he/she has tested positive, is symptomatic, self-isolating or otherwise unwell. Our system of controls remains in place, including staggered timings, "bubbles" and enhanced cleaning.

*The Collegiate Trust* takes very seriously the risks to health and life of COVID-19 and supports all of the guidance and direction to limit the possibility of transmission of the coronavirus in our schools. Therefore, when students return on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2021 they will be **required to wear a face mask over nose and mouth at all times when inside the school building**, other than when eating at a dining table. This will now include **masks in lessons**, which we recognise may limit aspects of learning; however, we believe this is a minor issue that will help to support the major aim of bringing all students back to school. If a student has a medically diagnosed condition or disability that makes this a problem, please ensure we are aware of this by contacting Mrs Williams, Deputy Principal at [nicole.williams@riddlesdown.org](mailto:nicole.williams@riddlesdown.org) in order that we can consider whether to grant an exemption.

Whilst I acknowledge the huge efforts made by students and teachers with *Remote Learning*, we are excited to be able to return to face-to-face learning in classrooms and I look forward to welcoming everyone back soon.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Dey  
Principal