



Biddenham

International School & Sports College

Principal: Mr David Bailey

Head of School: Ms Eleanor Grylls

24th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you were able to enjoy some 'unplugged' time with your families over the half term break and are at least a little rested. It was with great hope and interest that many of us watched or listened to the prime minister's briefing on Monday evening, and we wanted to get in touch with you today, just to outline briefly how we plan to move towards opening the school up to all students again.

A central feature of the government's plan to open up secondary schools, is its focus on the mass testing of all students and staff. To facilitate this happening schools have been given the flexibility to stagger students' return to school around this testing programme. Clearly, this is a big logistical challenge that all schools are now facing. Our initial plan is that week beginning Monday 8th March there will be a staggered testing programme for all year groups alongside our continuing remote learning provision. After all year groups have been tested, we will return to full time teaching in school for **all** year groups from Monday 15th March. These plans are provisional however, and may be subject to change as we get more details from the government.

It is important that you have access to information about Lateral Flow tests and how they work. [Here](#) is a letter about testing with a **consent form** attached. This can be completed electronically by following the link, (which is recommended), or paper copies can be brought in when students attend their test appointment. We have already been conducting testing for staff and students, having undergone the training to do so. Below you can see a picture of our testing site that has been set up in the school sports hall.



There are still a number of details for us to work through, including reviewing our risk assessment and all our safety measures so that we can all return to school as safely as possible. We understand that there will be many questions about reopening. Further details will follow shortly providing testing appointment times for the week beginning 8th March and then timetable arrangements and safety reminders for a full return to school the week beginning 15th March.

In the meantime, we will continue with our full timetable of remote learning. We thank you for your patience and support over many weeks now and we really look forward to welcoming our students back to school soon.

Warm regards

Mr D Bailey
Principal

Ms E Grylls
Head of School

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