

17 December 2021

Dear parents and carers,

As we come close to the Christmas break, I wanted to thank you for your support over the last term. Whilst we have had recent challenges around Covid-19, I am extremely proud of what our students have achieved with the guidance and support of our dedicated staff.

Students have been focussed and positive in lessons, with year 11 students sitting their mock exams in impeccable fashion. They have since reflected carefully having received their results last week. Outside of the classroom our students have experienced a range of opportunities including a year 10 science trip to Reading University, our annual year 7 charity fair, Duke of Edinburgh award sessions, Year 8 footballers making the county cup semi-finals, and key stage 3 students experiencing rugby training with Gloucester Rugby Club. Both the rugby and science opportunities are examples of the work of the OX14 Learning Partnership. This term we formalised our role in this partnership across the town. I have attached a letter that explains the benefits of this agreement between secondary schools in the OX14 postcode.

We hope and anticipate that these opportunities will continue in January. However, we are aware that the Covid-19 situation is ever changing. At present we expect students to return, as planned, with a staggered start. We will expect all members of the school community to wear a mask both in communal indoor areas and in lessons. This will be for the first week initially, we will then review this based on the government guidance and the local situation.

For the staggered return, we ask that all students have a lateral flow test in school before going into the classroom. This is in line with the government guidance. You will receive a separate email outlining the date and time your child will be expected to come into school for their test. This will be sent to you the working day before their scheduled day.

The staggered return is as follows:

Date	Year groups tested and in school
Tuesday 4 th January 2022	Year 11 and JMF6 students
Wednesday 5 th January 2022	Year 9 and Year 10 students
Thursday 6 th January 2022	Year 7 and Year 8 students



The tests will take place in our testing room in the Technology block. Once completed students will return to lessons. If they test positive, we will contact home to ask them to be picked up and taken for a PCR test. We encourage regular testing over the Christmas break; your child has received testing kits this week to ensure they have enough for the break.

For students not in school, remote learning will be in place. Staff will set work using EPraise in the established way. This can be accessed in the same way that students access homework. Students have been reminded of how this works today, but if there are any problems, please do contact us. The lessons will either be via Teams, recorded by teachers, or in the form of a link to a video from an external source. If your child does not have access to a digital device to access remote learning, then please let us know. Students will not be set work for the day they are coming in for their test.

Some of you will be aware that Mrs Smith, our SENCo, is leaving at the end of this term to a new role at another school. We wish her well in her new post and thank her for all she has done in school for our students over the last 7 years. I will be writing early in term 3 to update you on the leadership of our learning support department moving forward.

Thank you again for your support this term. I hope you have a relaxing Christmas and New Year. We look forward to seeing all our students return safely at the start of term 3 in January.

Yours sincerely,



Will Speke
Head of School



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