



31 December 2020

Rachel Hutchinson  
**Principal**

Dear Parent/Carer

## **COVID-19 update 31 December 2020 Return in January 2021 and Testing in Secondary Schools**

Following the government's announcement yesterday in response to the rapidly rising case rates due to the new, more transmissible variant of COVID-19, all secondary schools in England have been requested to push back the staggered return by one week. This staggered return will enable all schools more time for the rollout of rapid testing and, on top of existing protective measures in place, will help keep our schools as safe as possible for students and staff.

During the first few weeks of the spring term, we will focus on preparing for the rollout of rapid testing to help find symptomatic cases, working with the support of Mrs Jill Chapman, a medical professional who is a COVID Advisor, and the Westcountry Schools Trust. The plans for this rapid testing will be communicated to you in due course.

We will continue with a staggered return in January as planned, with some slight adjustments in accordance with the new government guidelines. The Senior Leadership Team are currently working remotely with all staff to ensure we provide a smooth and safe return to the New Year.

### **From Monday, 4 January 2021**

- Face-to-face provision will be available for all students of critical workers and vulnerable students. Please ensure you have completed the online survey to notify the College of attendance [here](#).
- All Year 11, 12 and 13 students will commence Remote Live Lessons via Microsoft Teams following their normal College timetable.
- Students who have upcoming public examinations over the next two weeks will be invited to attend College on the days they have lessons in these subjects in order to have face-to-face preparation lessons.
- All other students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be provided with independent Remote Learning tasks to complete on Monday, 4 and Tuesday, 5 January 2021. From Wednesday, 6 January 2021, all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will commence on their Remote Live Lessons via Microsoft Teams following their normal College timetable.

We will be releasing a pre-recorded New Year Briefing to all parents/carers and students at the beginning of the week in order that we can share the above information with further clarity and provide instructions on how to access all Remote Learning. We recommend that all parents/carers watch this together with their child(ren) to ensure that everyone is fully informed for the weeks ahead.

### **From Monday, 11 January 2021**

- Face-to-face provision will be available for all students in Years 11 and 13, and key invited examination groups in Year 12.
- Face-to-face provision will continue to be available for all students of critical workers and vulnerable students.
- All other students will continue to access their Remote Learning timetable for the week.

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## **From Monday, 18 January 2021**

All students across all Year Groups will return to College for face-to-face teaching as per normal timetables.

In order to support the introduction of the Testing Programme over the coming weeks, we will be asking all parents/carers to complete an online survey and further information will be provided before any testing commences with any students or staff members.

Some additional key points to support a return to College:

1. All forms of school transport will run as normal from Monday, 4 January 2021.
2. Catering services at the College will be open as normal for students attending College from Monday, 4 January 2021.
3. All students attending face-to-face lessons in College are expected to wear their normal College Uniform and attend with the appropriate learning resources.
4. **The wearing of face masks at all times around the College** and in all lessons to help reduce the spread of the more transmissible variant of COVID-19. Students will be permitted to remove their mask during the day for eating and drinking purposes during break times, and if participating in class discussion. Students may wish to have a spare mask with them to use during the day. (Unless exempt).
5. **Following all social distancing measures and one-way systems around the College.**
6. For students in Years 7 to 11 who have not yet completed our online survey, to confirm attendance arrangements and have suitable IT access at home. We kindly ask that you do this as soon as possible by using the link [here](#).

As we move in 2021, we very much hope that you are able to look forward with a renewed sense of hope and optimism for the year ahead. I wish you and your family a very Happy New Year and thank you for your continued support during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Hutchinson  
**College Principal**