

15<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear parents and carers,

I hope had fun in the snow while it lasted, and that you're enjoying the half term break. Thank you for your support throughout the academic year so far – it's been tough, but I think we've risen to the many challenges as a team, and I can assure you that we are doing all we can to make sure our students aren't disadvantaged by the current situation.

I just wanted to clarify the arrangements for returning to learning after half term:

- **Online learning will resume on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February for all students, who should access their lessons from home [as they've done so far this term].**
- **School will reopen only for those children who have already been attending this term so they can be supervised whilst accessing their remote learning in our ICT rooms.**
- **On February 22<sup>nd</sup> we expect to find out the date when our school will reopen to all students – this will not be until March 8<sup>th</sup> at the earliest.**

Shortly after the announcement is made on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, I will confirm the arrangements for the coming weeks – this will include the date[s] for students to return and more information about the testing we will have in place for their safety. Please see the section later in this letter if you'd be interested in volunteering to help us in our 'return to school' testing programme.

For our older students and their parents, February 22<sup>nd</sup> is also the day when we expect to hear the outcome of the consultation that will confirm how GCSE, A-level and vocational grades are awarded this summer. Again, as soon as this is published I will let everyone concerned know what we collectively need to do in order to ensure our students receive the grades they have worked so hard to achieve.

## LOCKDOWN

Can I please urge all members of our community to remember that we are still operating in a lockdown situation, in order to minimise the risk of transmitting covid-19. I do hear reports of nonessential travel between our towns and villages, and of groups of our students gathered together in public spaces. I know it's hard to comply with the tough regulations, especially when we've done so for such a long time, but I am worried that, unless we do keep following the rules for a few more weeks, we may see a local spike in cases as we saw in the autumn. This could impact on learning at the very time we need to get back into our normal routines. Thank you for playing your part – on the bright side, spring is coming and the vaccine is being administered quickly. The end is surely in sight!

## UNIFORM

Shoes:

A further reminder that we have returned to the expectation of our students wearing school shoes. We expect all our students to be wearing black polishable school shoes of a formal/dress style as per

our uniform policy in previous academic years. For clarity, no trainers or footwear with clear branding will be allowed. Therefore, Converse, Vans, TOMS, Stan Smiths, Nike (e.g. Air Force 1s), etc. will not be accepted along with black plimsoll style shoes. This is not an exhaustive list and I would urge you to contact your child's Pastoral Support Officer if you have any difficulties in meeting this expectation, if you feel your child may be an exception and this exception can be supported with medical evidence, or if you have any questions or queries. They can provide you with some exemplars of what we do and do not accept.

Hoodies:

Additionally, only school branded hoodies will be permitted to be worn inside the school building at present based on the weather. We will keep this decision under review as we move into the spring.

Blazers and ties:

We still plan to return to the wearing of school blazers and clip-on ties for all children from September 2021 and we will soon be sharing some exciting news about developments and changes to our PE kit - more news on this front to follow soon.

## **TESTING**

We are now getting ready for the return of all staff and pupils into school when the government allows, whether this is from March 8<sup>th</sup> onwards or at a later date. At this stage, the government are continuing with their rapid testing programme, which means students will be given the chance to be tested twice during their first week back in school and staff will be tested twice weekly from then on.

As this is a large operation to conduct, we are looking for volunteers from our local community to help with this mammoth task. This may be of interest to those who have some medical experience, e.g. St John's Ambulance or a trained First Aider, but we will give the necessary training to anyone who is interested in offering some of their time so we can provide an effective testing service alongside operating in a fully functioning school once again.

If you are interested in finding out more about the testing programme, please email Carole Hutchinson, Testing Team Leader [chutchinson01@jcsc.co.uk](mailto:chutchinson01@jcsc.co.uk) by Sunday 21 February.

Please do keep in touch with us, and make sure you check our Facebook page – it's updated regularly with all the essential information.

As ever, we are so grateful as a staff team at JCSC for the support we get from our parents and community. Thank you and enjoy the rest of the week!

Best wishes,



Neil Rodgers  
Executive Headteacher