



Headteacher: Mrs Lucy Miles

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you will be aware, the government have updated their plan for the restart of face to face teaching for all students. For secondary schools, we will be making use of a staggered start during the week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> March to allow time for mass testing to be put in place. We are awaiting further information from the DfE regarding this testing and will communicate a detailed plan as soon as we are able.

What we do know is that the testing programme is likely to include 3 rounds of testing for all students and for staff to continue to be tested twice weekly. Following this, the government will be making 2 home testing kits available per week for staff and students. Further information on how to obtain these will follow as soon as that is made available to us.

I am aware there will be some anxiety around the restart. However, I would like to reassure you that safety is a priority for us and we have demonstrated how well we all work together, rising to the challenge and supporting each other, as a school community, to be safe, whilst continuing to offer our full curriculum throughout our Autumn term.

Whilst there will be some staggering in the week beginning the 8<sup>th</sup> March, from the week beginning 15<sup>th</sup> March the structure of the school day will continue as it was prior to the Christmas break.

In addition, all of our previous mitigations will remain in place including: year group bubbles and zones, a robust one-way system, increased ventilation and enhanced cleaning. The additional mitigation that the government and the school will now put in place (for a limited period- up to the end of term) is the use of face coverings in classrooms where 2m social distancing is not possible. This will be mandatory, unless wearing a face covering would impact on the ability to take part e.g. in PE or for those exempt from wearing a face covering as set out in the government guidance. Please ensure that your child has a facemask and brings it to school each day. For students these must be plain with no designs, images or words on.

### **Consent for testing:**

As per my previous letters we are asking that if you have not already, that you fill in the registration and consent form by following the link: <https://forms.gle/4GXqMvwfUmDKwFydA> . Should you not be able to register through this form please contact the school on [admin@highfield.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@highfield.herts.sch.uk) or through phoning the school. If your child has additional needs that will impact on the ability to self-test, please contact [ldadmin@highfield.herts.sch.uk](mailto:ldadmin@highfield.herts.sch.uk) to discuss arranging reasonable adjustments for the testing process.

Once again thank you for your on-going support; we look forward to welcoming our students back to face to face education and I wish you and your family well.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Miles  
Headteacher

