



31st December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **Phased return to school**

First of all, please can I apologise for the delay in providing you with information regarding the start of the spring term but all school leaders have been waiting for the government to confirm their final plans with us. This was finally provided at 4pm yesterday and we have responded as swiftly as possible.

All secondary schools are being asked to phase their year groups back to school and at the same time are being encouraged to take part in the rapid results testing programme for Covid-19. This is in order to try to minimise the risk of transmission across school communities and beyond. This will be a substantial project to set up and manage within school.

We have agreed to take part in this programme but have lots to implement in order to make it manageable and have the desired impact.

### **Week commencing 4<sup>th</sup> January**

In line with Dawn Stabb's announcement in her letter to parents/carers sent out on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December we are going to use Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January to consider the logistics and implementation of the mass testing and to allow staff to review and prepare online teaching.

### **School will not be open for any students on the 4<sup>th</sup> January.**

From the 5<sup>th</sup> January we will be open for the children of parents/carers who are identified as critical workers and for those young people who are considered vulnerable. If you think you meet the criteria of a critical worker, please complete the online survey link and a member of my team will be in contact with you.

<https://tiverton.devon.sch.uk/covid-19-school-attendance>

The link above also provides a further survey to identify if you are a critical worker.

All year 11 students will commence remote lessons via Google Classroom, and are asked to follow their normal timetable.

Students of year 7-10 will be provided with independent remote learning tasks via Google Classroom on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January and will then commence remote lessons via Google Classrooms on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Students can access Google Classroom via a range of devices including smart phones. If any student has difficulties with this, please ask them to email their tutor or Head of Year for support in the first instance.

During this first week we will be engaging in the testing programme with staff, as well as the children of critical workers and vulnerable learners who are in school. We also hope to invite year 11 in to school to begin to test them prior to their return on the 11<sup>th</sup> January. Further information about this will be provided to parents/carers of year 11 next week.



In order for any students to engage in the testing programme parents/carers have to provide consent. Please click [here](#) to gain further understanding of the process of the testing and completing the consent form. Students will not be tested if parents/carers have not provided consent.

## **Week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> January**

Year 11 will be welcomed back to school for face-to-face teaching.

Year 7-10 will continue to receive online learning via Google Classroom.

During this week we anticipate inviting students of year 7 through to year 10, numbers permitting, into school to conduct their first test.

## **Week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> January**

All year groups will be welcomed back to school for face-to-face teaching.

I appreciate the short notice of this announcement about plans for the start of term but as previously stated we are working in line with government announcements and policies and thank you in anticipation of your support as we tackle this challenge together.

If you have any questions regarding any of the information provided in this letter, please contact the school via phone or email using [covid@tiverton.devon.sch.uk](mailto:covid@tiverton.devon.sch.uk).

## **General Coronavirus safety**

We ask for your continued support in reminding your child of the new Tier 3 guidance, and the importance of the following safety principles when the new term commences in January:

- The wearing of face masks when entering school buildings at all times (unless exempt).
- Following all social distancing measures around the school. All classes have recorded seating plans which identifies the student location in each room.
- Following the one-way systems. Face masks must remain on at all times as a preventative measure where social distancing is more challenging.
- The wearing of face masks on school buses at all times. Students should remain seated in their designated 'Year Group' bubbles.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sammy Crook', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Sammy Crook  
Head