

February 2021

Dear parents and carers

I hope you and your families all had a good half-term break and that the students are all refreshed and ready for the next phase of learning. Thank you to all families who have been taking part in the GDST Get Active campaign over the holidays. The BHS team spirit is definitely alive and well!

You will have seen that the Prime Minister has announced that all students will return to schools in England **starting from the 8th March**. We have only just received the official DFE guidance on what this will entail, as there have been changes to policy on mask wearing (now compulsory in the classrooms too in Senior School) and testing regimes for students in Years 7 and above before they can return to the classroom. As soon as we have had time to plan for a safe testing routine, I will contact you with more detail later in the week. I do know that there will be stricter safety requirements and our "bubbles/zones" will be in place for some time.

All students in the Junior School will be able to return on the 8th March, however there will be **a staggered regime of testing days for all of the Senior School for the first week. Please look out for more emails and Google consent forms which will be coming out to you about this later in the week. Students will be given allocated days and times to attend school during that week. Guided home learning will still be in place on days when your daughters are not physically in school.**

When students return they should bring back any loaned laptops or devices on their first allocated day back in school.

As far as Year 11 and Year 13 are concerned, we are expecting an announcement from Ofqual this Thursday about how grades will be awarded this summer and which assessments schools can carry out. Year 11 should expect mock examinations starting from 22 March onwards and continuing after Easter. We will be in touch as soon as possible with more detail. We will need access to **a wide variety of evidence** to be able to assess and award grades this summer.

For now, we continue with our guided home learning for all, with all attendance and engagement recorded to ensure girls do not miss out on vital learning.

I am really looking forward to welcoming all our students back – we miss them so much!

Please look out for more emails later in the week about how the return to school will work at BHS.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully

Rebecca Mahony
Principal

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