



18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the most recent announcement from the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, all secondary schools in England have been instructed to implement **a staggered return to on-site learning** at the beginning of next term. Schools are also to make the necessary preparations to deliver a COVID testing programme for staff and students that will operate for the foreseeable future. We are still awaiting the final guidance from the Department of Education, but our provisional arrangements for the start of next term are now as follows:

- **Monday 4th January 2021 will be an INSET day.** We will be finalising the arrangements for our COVID testing programme. There will not be any on-site or remote learning provision for students.
- **Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th January 2021 for students in Years 11, 12 and 13.** Students will be invited into school on Tuesday morning for the first of their two COVID tests. Students who receive a negative result will start lessons in school on Tuesday afternoon and they will complete a second COVID test on Friday morning. Any student receiving a positive test result on either Tuesday or Friday will be asked to self-isolate and seek an NHS COVID test.
- **Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th January 2021 for students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10.** Students will be required to use Microsoft Teams to access remote learning before their return to school on Monday 11th January 2021. This remote provision will be a mixture of live lessons, pre-recorded presentations and pre-set tasks. Students will also be required to attend at least one COVID test appointment in school, details of which will be sent to you on or before Monday 4th January 2021. *Please note that if both a student's parents/carers are key workers and they have no alternative childcare arrangements in place, they can request a place in school for their child by emailing contact@nottinghamfreeschool.co.uk by 9:00 a.m. on 4th January 2021.*
- **Monday 11th January 2021 onwards.** All students will return to school to follow their normal timetable. Some students will take their second COVID test at the start of this week. None of these new arrangements will affect our existing COVID control measures, so please continue to ensure your child comes to school with an appropriate face covering.

Once we receive the final guidance for the testing process from the Department of Education, we will be able to communicate in more detail regarding the specific arrangements for your child.

Thank you for your continuing support and understanding as we try to respond to each new challenge, and my very best wishes for a safe and restful Christmas.

Yours faithfully,

Mark Watts
Head of School