



# HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

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18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear parents/carers,

You may have seen some guidance from the Government regarding a staggered start back to school in January, as well as mass testing. We are still waiting for confirmation on several aspects from the Government, so further information will be provided to you as and when we as a school are provided with it and able to put a plan into place regarding this. I ask for your patience and support as this announcement has come out very late at the end of the school term and requires a huge amount of planning and work.

What I do want to confirm with you today is that all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 (except those who have an EHCP plan or those who are children of key workers) will return to school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. Students will be sent links on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January to online learning that they will complete for that week.

Students in Year 11 will be in for some of the week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> January due to many of them having January exams. Specifics around this will be communicated, again when information from the Government is provided to us and we are able to put a plan in to place.

The main reason for this is that the Government have requested for mass testing of staff and students before the school starts. The requirement is for two tests to be taken three days apart. If a student tests positive then they (and their household) will be required to isolate as per Government guidance. If both tests come back as negative, then students can return on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. The idea from the Government is that teachers and support staff will be trained to complete this mass testing so that if a student is feeling unwell, they can be tested and isolate if required. This will mean if a student in a year group tests positive, the year group can all be tested and only those who test positive will need to isolate, limiting the need for whole year groups being out of the school building.

With regards to the testing, the early plan is that students will be invited in to school in their tutor group where they will be tested. This will then be repeated a few days later. You will be communicated with the results.

As you can see, a huge amount of work and planning needs to go into this, so I again ask for your patience and continued support. You will be communicated with as much notice as possible regarding all of this, but the next communication is likely to be at the start of January now.

A google form will be emailed out to you. Please can I ask that you complete this as soon as possible and no later than 5pm on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December. This will be asking if you consent to



your son/daughter to be tested, plus also confirming if they will need to be in school the first week back due to having an EHCP plan or due to being a child of a key worker.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "SJDerry.".

Mr Stephen Derry  
**Headteacher**

