

Our ref: ljm/KDV/Correspondence

26 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Latest Update**

I find myself again thanking you for all the support you have given to the school and your children since the start of January. Last term was an extremely challenging time for all of us but together we managed spectacularly and there is now some light at the end of that tunnel. Since September we have been invited to appear on the BBC national news; to present at Microsoft's international 2021 Education Exchange event; to be part of the panel at the Westminster Education Forum's keynote seminar; and been recognised by Ofsted for the fantastic remote learning provision we have put in place during this second full lockdown. While it is great to have this level of recognition for our staff, we are under no illusion that without your support, none of what we have done would have been possible.

Despite the success of our remote learning offer, we were still delighted to receive the Prime Minister's announcement on Monday. Thank you for the patience you have shown waiting for me to share with you our reopening plan. As you know, secondary schools also need to offer COVID lateral flow tests (LFT) to their students which means we need to stagger our return to make the testing manageable and ensure students who test positive do not come into contact with others. Each year group will have a day of LFT where they will **come to school for a testing appointment then return home**. Their on-site lessons will begin the next day. As soon as onsite lessons begin for your child they must return full time, unless they are self-isolating or have a shielding letter because they are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV). I have shared with you below the timetable for our return:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Year Groups in for Testing</b> (only in school for testing and then return home)	<b>Year Groups in School Having Onsite Lessons</b>	<b>Year Groups at Home Having Remote Lessons</b>
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	11 and 13	None	7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March	10 and 12	11 and 13	7, 8, 9, 10 and 12
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	7 and 8	10, 11, 12 and 13	7, 8 and 9
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	9	7, 8, 10, 11, 12 and 13	9
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	Testing Rota Restarts	All	None

Remote lessons will continue for each year group until the day they return to onsite lessons. By Friday 12<sup>th</sup> March all year groups will be back onsite.

If you would like your child to be offered three tests at school before testing takes place at home then you will need to give your consent. Please follow the link that was sent to you previously in

January: <https://app.schoolscreener.com/Portal/#/Covidmanager/p/CovidTesting/120297> and fill out a new form for each child who attends The City of Leicester College. The deadline for this is Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March at midday so that we can schedule the appointments and send them out in advance.

In addition to the testing, there have been some other minor changes. Instead of normal lessons next Friday (5<sup>th</sup> March 2021) there will be a series of return to school lessons to get students ready for on-site learning again. Students will now need to wear masks in lessons and coats will be allowed in lessons to ensure we can keep the rooms ventilated. These rules will be re-evaluated after Easter as the weather continues to improve. An updated return to school video will be shared with all parents next Friday too.

I know that many of you will also have questions about the awarding of grades following the announcements yesterday. We are now developing our in school processes, but if you would like an overview of the approach outlined by the Government you may find this article useful: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/how-qualifications-will-be-awarded-in-2021>. We will publish our final plan by Friday 26<sup>th</sup> March at the latest but we will use next half term to conduct the assessments needed to grade students.

It has been a strange year but I think we finally have cause for optimism as the vaccination program continues to roll out and the weather improves. We will of course take nothing for granted when your child returns and will be insisting on the same high levels of behaviour and health and safety as before Christmas.

Yours sincerely



**Mr K. Vernon**  
**Head Teacher**