

28 January 2021

Dear Parents,

I expect you will have noted the Prime Minister's statement to Parliament yesterday that UK schools will not re-open to all pupils until 8<sup>th</sup> March at the earliest. Although this means a longer period of remote learning than I had hoped for, it does at least provide hope of some sort of return to face-to-face lessons this term, which I'm afraid had been drifting away amidst rising Covid cases in the UK. Therefore, this is very positive news for staff, students and parents.

As yet, we have little further information, so do not know exactly what that return will look like. For example, will it be phased by year-group, on a rota of year-groups, or will it be for all students? As soon as we receive useful updates, I will pass these on to you. The Government have pledged to give schools two weeks' notice to re-open. If national vaccination targets are met, this notice should be provided on February 22<sup>nd</sup>; doubtless it will be accompanied by a raft of guidance for schools. Bearing in mind that we were all set to re-open on January 18<sup>th</sup>, I am confident that the School is in a good position with our lateral-flow testing processes, operating procedures and risk assessment. As always, these will be adjusted according to current Government advice.

I expect there will be complexities around overseas students returning to boarding due to new UK border controls and travel quarantine rules. I will be working with the Director of Boarding on what these may mean for our international students, and will be guided by Government and Boarding Schools' Association (BSA) advice. We will update boarding parents as soon as we are able.

As ever with this pandemic, it remains a dynamic situation, and I am grateful for your patience and flexibility as we respond to Government decisions. For your information, here is the [Prime Minister's statement to the House of Commons on coronavirus: 27 January 2021 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/prime-minister-s-statement-to-the-house-of-commons-on-coronavirus-27-january-2021) ([www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk))

Please do not hesitate to contact me or Mandy Smart ([smartm@cranbrook.kent.sch.uk](mailto:smartm@cranbrook.kent.sch.uk)) if you would like to discuss any element of this.

Yours sincerely,



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