

Dear Parents/Carers

### **When your child will return to school**

As you will probably be aware the government has instructed us to have a staggered start to term so that we have time to set up a coronavirus testing facility at school. Subsequently, our plan for pupils' return to education is as follows -

- Although we are not required to do so for the first week of term, KS3 will be set work on Teams for the first two weeks of term and will then return to school on Monday 18th January. This may include some live teaching.
- Yrs 10&12 will be set work on Teams, to include some live teaching, for the first two weeks of term and then will return to school on Monday 18th January.
- Yrs 11&13 will be set work on Teams, to include some live teaching, for the first week of term and then will return to school on Monday 11th January.

### **Remote teaching**

We have worked hard as a staff to improve our online teaching skills, so I hope you see an improved, more interactive and sometimes live teaching delivery for your children; we are very much not quite there yet, but we are working on it. In my email before Christmas I attached a guide to Teams, which I hope you find useful. Please encourage your children to stick to a timetable of work that matches their timetable at school, and to check their emails and to log into Teams each day at the right time. If you do not have the technology or internet connection required to engage in this effectively, please do get in touch with us.

### **Children of Critical Workers**

We will be able to have your child attend school if you are a Critical Worker, you cannot make an alternative arrangement and their being at home will stop you from going to work. As we are a secondary school we do not anticipate this affecting many of you. If this is the case though please send your child in, but please email us to let us know this will be the case on [office@reephamhigh.com](mailto:office@reephamhigh.com), with a subject '**Critical worker - child to attend school**'. Please do this on Monday 4th January. Additionally, if you were contacted directly by a member of staff before the end of term, inviting your child into school, please feel free to do so, but let us know you intend to do this by following the instructions as for the children of critical workers. At this point we understand that transport will run as normal.

### **Coronavirus Testing**

The aim is to be able to test all pupils and staff at school and we hope to be able to start the testing on 11th January. Staff will be prioritised and will be tested weekly. We will then prioritise pupils from oldest to youngest, and hope to have everyone who wants to be tested done by the end of the second full week of testing. This will be organised during the pupils' normal school day. We would strongly encourage all pupils to be tested and to do this, we will need your consent. A separate letter and electronic consent form will be issued to you soon, making it easy for you to complete this online.

Once all pupils are tested they will only be tested again if identified as a close contact of

someone who has tested positive themselves. This will be done daily, allowing them to remain in school rather than having to isolate for 10 days. If you do not want your child to be tested, and they are identified as a close contact of a positive case, they will need to isolate at home for 10 days before returning to school.

Exact details of testing arrangements will be sent to you once they have been established.

### **Volunteers needed**

To run a testing facility that has only 4 testing stations requires 10 adults at a time. We hope to be able to set up 6 stations, which would require 15 adults. Some of you have already offered your help, which is great, thanks. However we may well need more help, so if you think you might be able to do this, to complement the staff we will be able to direct to this task, please let us know. If you wish to offer to help, please email [office@reephamhigh.com](mailto:office@reephamhigh.com) with a subject '**Volunteer to help coronavirus testing**', and outlining within the email your availability. We will then get back in touch once we have made plans.

### **Mock exams**

Year 13 mock exams will be delayed by one week, and will now take place on 13th/14th January. Students should follow their original timetable which states the timings of each exam on Wednesday or Thursday.

Year 11 mock exams will go ahead as planned, starting on Friday 15th January.

### **Year 9 Parents' Evening**

At this point we are uncertain when this will take place, as it was due to be 14th January, and pupils will not have been able to make any appointments. We will email Year 9 parents as soon as we have made new arrangements.

### **Corpusty Primary School vandalism**

Like me I am sure you were shocked to hear about the serious vandalism to Corpusty Primary School, that happened in the very late night/early morning of New Year's Eve. Corpusty school is part of our Trust and we work really closely with it, and our sympathy is with Mrs Lound, her staff and the pupils whose school it is. If you live in Corpusty and your child was out very late that night please talk to them about where they were and what they were doing; someone will know exactly who is responsible. I am happy to receive information in complete confidence if you have any.

Please contact us to check anything that might be unclear to you. I anticipate emailing you weekly as we move through the first weeks of term and get back into yet another adjusted routine, so please check your emails regularly.

Yours sincerely

Tim Gibbs