5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

After weeks of planning the time of school opening we have been waiting for is here.    Please find our dynamic risk assessment for opening in the letters section of our school website. We have been really impressed with our key worker children and our Y11 students who have already been through our testing centre today.  We realise that this is an inconvenience for families but I would like to thank you for booking appointments, presenting on time and for the young people who cheerfully cooperated with the three minute test.  I don’t think anyone enjoys the process of testing but the maturity of our students while being tested has meant that we are one step closer to ensuring everyone’s safety, so please pass on our thanks.

As a word of caution, please also share with students that a negative test result doesn’t make us invincible and only means that the virus had not developed enough to be detected at the time of the test. It is for this reason that the DfE ask us to test every student 3 times within 2 weeks 3-5 days apart.  It is also really important that students know they need to keep up with the wearing of face masks, hand washing and social distancing.  Pleas remind them that a negative test isn’t a mandate to go out socialising with others. We still need to be very cautious.

We have issued a safety video for reopening (this will be shared with students on Monday or Tuesday depending on year group)  We are mindful that some students will have had positive experiences and be apprehensive about returning to school and others might have had negative experiences during lockdown and be scared about what they might face in class as they return.  We have given a clear message about keeping focused on the future and making the most of the opportunity to be together to learn.  You will be please to know that our plans are to meet the students where they are. We are recruiting additional posts within school to support those who need additional support as they come out of lockdown, but we want all students and parents to be able to sleep easy knowing we have ‘got this!’  Please watch our school opening safety video from Mrs Horridge, with your child to help them feel at ease when they return. <https://youtu.be/Y3rQ5FQmARc>

We also realise that Y11 may have lots of questions about the implications of centre assessed grades.  The message to them is that they still have everything to play for but time is of the essence.  Mrs Morgan had created a video explaining what to expect and how centre assessed grades will work.  Once again we want students and parents to be able to sleep easy in the knowledge that we have everything in hand.  <https://youtu.be/3nxASloNFFU>

Finally, on a personal note I would like to express my thanks for all the cooperation and support the community has given to me and to staff in school.  I know that we have all found things tough during this time, but the thing that has made it bearable is knowing that we are all here to support each other get the best experiences for our young people.

Thank you, take care and God Bless!

*Tony McCabe*

*Headteacher*