



23rd February 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am sure you will be aware from the Prime Minister's announcement last night that pupils will be able to return to schools from Monday 8th March. This is fantastic news and we are delighted that we will be able to share together the wonderful sights and sounds of Spring here at Canford in the weeks to come. It is very beautiful as I look out of my study window. The prospect of pupils and staff bringing life and vibrancy back to our school community to mirror the vitality which Mother Nature is bringing forth is very exciting.

We were hoping that the Prime Minister would confirm 'the rumours' about a return to school from Monday 8th March and we have made plans accordingly. Now that this has been confirmed we do need to review the fine details and update our risk assessments before we publish exactly how this return to school will work. Our intention is that all pupils will return early in that week with a staggered return to enable us to manage the requirements for lateral flow testing on arrival at school safely and sensibly.

Our current thinking is that we will be asking day pupils to come into school at designated times in the week preceding Monday 8th March so we can carry out their initial tests. Upper Sixth and Fifth Form boarders will return on the afternoon of Sunday 7th March with lessons commencing for all Fifth Form and Upper Sixth pupils on Monday 8th March. All other boarding pupils will return at designated times on Monday 8th March for testing. Lessons and activities for all Shells, Fourth Form and Lower Sixth will commence on the morning of Tuesday 9th March. This may change slightly but the basic format will follow this pattern.

We know that for some of you there will be anxiety about returning to school and we will seek to do all we can to reduce risk and ensure our community is kept as safe and supported as possible. We will continue to follow the DfE guidance in relation to how the school should run during the Covid-19 crisis and all the risk mitigation measures which were in place last term will need to be followed for the remainder of this term at least. The focus on **Hands, Face, Space** and maintenance of appropriate bubbles will remain crucial over this period to reduce the risk of spread of infection and to help us remain operational. In addition to the existing risk mitigation measures, the implementation of regular mass testing of staff and pupils will take place and, in line with updated Government recommendations, we will review where masks should be worn when in school.

Above all, as last term, we will be seeking to give all Canfordians as rich and full an educational experience as possible across the academic and co-curricular programmes, underpinned by strong ongoing support for the mental and physical wellbeing of our pupils and that desire we all have for social connection with friends and colleagues.

We are aware that some overseas pupils (including some in the Channel Islands) may not be able to return this term due to quarantine and flight restrictions and we will make arrangements to ensure that remote access to academic lessons and pastoral support is provided over the three weeks from Monday 8th March until the end of term.

We will be in contact early next week with full details for the return and how the testing programme will operate. If you have any questions or concerns please do respond to covidsafe@canford.com

Thank you so much for your wonderful ongoing support and commitment. As I said in my video message before half term there is a brighter horizon looming for us all.

Summary of Provisional Dates

Week commencing 1 st March	Covid-19 lateral flow testing for all day pupils	Times and arrangements to be advised
Sunday 7 th March (pm)	Upper Sixth and Fifth Form boarders return (with siblings in other years if applicable)	Times and arrangements to be advised
Monday 8 th March	Lessons Commence for all Upper Sixth and Fifth Form	
Monday 8 th March	Shells, Fourth and Lower Sixth boarders return	Times and arrangements to be advised
Tuesday 9 th March	Lessons commence for all Shells, Fourth Form and Lower Sixth	

Yours sincerely,

