



Our Reference: KH/GHR

5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

SPRING TERM RETURN TO SCHOOL

I hope you had a restful Christmas break and that you are looking forward to the new term and the year ahead. The announcement yesterday by the Prime Minister obviously has some major implications for schools, not least for Year 11 and Year 13 students.

School will remain closed for students except for those with Education Health Care Plans and also for those whose parents are critical workers and have requested a school place. This partial closure is expected to last until February half term.

GCSE and A Level examinations – Summer 2021

A major part of the announcement yesterday was that GCSE and A Level exams will not take place this summer. This is obviously very unsettling news for Year 11 and 13 students and we will continue to do all we can to support every student at this time.

Ofqual is organising a consultation to agree alternative arrangements for awarding exam grades this summer. We will share more information when this is available. Teachers will continue to deliver GCSE and A Level courses, currently remotely and when the students return to school. This will include introducing new content, reviewing previously learnt knowledge and implementing assessments. Student performance in this work and these assessments are likely to influence the final grade that students achieve.

Year 13 mock exams, which were due to start next week, are unfortunately cancelled. We will arrange to run these mock exams when the students return to school. Students and parents will be kept up to date with any arrangements made.

Rapid COVID-19 testing in schools

We are working to keep Brookfield as safe as possible. You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is beginning across the country using new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.



Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely. Up to one third of people who have COVID-19 experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. The test is voluntary, but I would encourage everyone to take it.

Consent for testing

A separate letter has been sent with this letter inviting all parents/carers to provide consent for students to be tested when they are in school. This consent is to be provided using the electronic form detailed in the letter.

Rapid COVID-19 testing in schools – volunteers

The testing arrangements for staff and students will require a sizeable staff team, in a variety of roles. We will need around 12 staff each day to run the testing station. Whilst we will manage this internally in the short-term, looking ahead it will be necessary to build a wider team. To this end we are looking for parent volunteers who may be able to support. If you feel that you would be able to assist school in this area, or would like more information, please contact Assistant Headteacher, Sarah Metcalfe-Murgatroyd, by email on S.Metcalfe-Murgatroyd@brookfieldcs.org.uk or contact the school on 01246 568115.

Remaining INSET day

As you are aware, we have made the decision to take the additional INSET day in December in place of the one originally scheduled for 25th June 2021. Therefore, our only remaining INSET day this year will be **Friday 9th July 2021**. Students are not required to come to school on this day.

We will keep you updated of any key events that are arranged during this term. A reminder that this term ends on **Friday 12th February**.

Extending very best wishes for 2021 from everyone at Brookfield.

Yours faithfully



Mr K Hirst
Headteacher