

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

We hope you have managed to enjoy a happy Christmas despite the challenges of Covid. We are writing to let you know about our emerging plans for the start of the new term next week. We are expecting all primary age pupils and all pupils in Year 11 and 13 to return to school on the 4th January. We are also able to provide education for key workers and vulnerable pupils. We have already been in contact with all parents and carers of children in these categories to confirm the arrangements for the return to school. We expect that all other year groups will return to school on the 11th January but will confirm this in the first week back. Those pupils who are remaining at home will be able to access their learning through Google Classroom to support their remote education.

We are confident that the measures that we have already in place such as social distancing, frequent handwashing/sanitising and the wearing of masks in communal areas are sufficient to keep pupils safe on their return. However, we recognise that there has been a significant rise in infections in the local area. Therefore we are following government guidance on developing a mass testing centre to support schools' reopening. We are going to use lateral flow tests, a self-administered test, that is not invasive.

The testing centre for all Turner schools will be based at Folkestone Academy, in the lower sports hall which has its own entrance and exit. Our site staff are working on transforming this into an appropriate venue. We are also employing specialist staff to administer the tests who have some medical experience. We will trial the testing centre initially with staff and then prioritise Year 11 and Year 13 pupils in the first instance. We will send more details early next week of any future plans to roll out testing more widely to secondary pupils. In due course, we also expect to be able to offer tests to primary pupils as well.

All testing is voluntary and will need your explicit consent. **Pupils should attend school whether they have received a test or not.** Only those pupils who are self-isolating due to receiving a positive test or required to do so by Track and Trace should remain at home. However, as of the 29th December these plans are dependent on any changes to the guidance over the next few days. In any case, we will be in contact with you again before the start of term to finalise our arrangements for January.

We wish you a happy new year and look forward to seeing you back in school as soon as possible.

Kind regards

Seamus Murphy CEO  
Kristina Yates Principal