

25th February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

As we approach the end of the third, and I hope last, period of lockdown, I hope this letter finds you and your family well. Please find attached detailed arrangements for the planned re-opening of Brymore from Monday 8th March 2021 and I also want to clarify these arrangements below.

Schools have been asked to ensure that all students are tested three times, 3-5 days apart at school before the responsibility for testing will be passed onto families to complete tests at home. We therefore need to arrange for nearly 1,000 tests to be carried out in the first few days back at school. The Government has said that schools can have a staggered re-opening in order that these tests are able to be carried out safely, however, I am also mindful that I would like to get all boys back as soon as possible and by no later than Tuesday 9th March 2021, therefore, boys are expected to return as outlined below:

Sunday 7th March 2021

Year 7 and 8 boarders to return between 4.00pm - 5.30pm
Year 9 and 10 boarders to return between 5.30pm - 7.00pm
Year 11 boarders to return between 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Boys are to report to the main hall for testing and parents are to remain in their car until the test result is known. Families with boys in more than one year group can bring both boys back at the same time.

Monday 8th March 2021

Year 11 out-boarders to return between 9.00am - 10.00am
Year 10 out-boarders to return between 11.00am - 12.00pm

Boys are to report to the main hall for testing and parents are to remain in their car until the test result is known. Families with boys in more than one year group can bring both boys back at the same time.

Tuesday 9th March 2021

Year 9 out-boarders to return between 9.00am - 10.00am
Year 8 out-boarders to return between 11.00am - 12.00pm
Year 7 out-boarders to return between 1.00pm - 2.00pm

Boys are to report to the main hall for testing and parents are to remain in their car until the test result is known. Families with boys in more than one year group can bring both boys back at the same time.

In order to ensure that both testing happens and those in school are able to attend lessons, there will be no on-line learning for Years 7, 8 and 9 on Monday 8th March because staff will be delivering lessons to boarders and Years 10 and 11. In addition, to allow staff time to set up and prepare for return of boys, there will be an Inset Day on Friday 5th March where again, there will be no on-line lessons and we will also be closed to the children of key workers, unless parents are unable to find alternative arrangements for their son. Staff will set work for both days and the tutorial will go ahead on Friday 5th March to allow boys to ask any questions about the return to school.

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We hope to have tested all boys three times by Tuesday 16th March and therefore, boys will be provided with home test kits from that day onwards. There is then an expectation that these tests are carried out at home twice a week as outlined in the enclosed document. A more detailed letter outlining the testing arrangements for the first three days back will be sent home shortly. Parents will be asked to stay at school in their car until a negative result is known. Consent forms will also be sent home shortly. Please note that testing is strongly encouraged but not compulsory and boys are able to return if parents choose not to have their son tested.

It is our intention to continue to run as many of the normal Brymore activities and lessons as possible, as we did in the Autumn term. The one key change from the Government for this term is that boys and staff will be expected to wear masks during lessons. At Brymore they have always been expected to wear masks as they enter a lesson, so this change is not as significant as it may have been in other schools. Please ensure your son has a mask and a plastic bag to keep it in **every day**.

We are still awaiting further guidance from the Government requiring Year 11 and how we are to calculate their estimated grades and I will update Year 11 parents when I have more information. The message however remains consistent, in that Year 11 boys need to continue to work hard, so that staff are able to give them the estimated grade that they deserve.

I am well aware that many of you will be nervous and anxious about your son returning to school and I am sure many of the boys will have found the last few months difficult. We will continue to offer support both individually and through the PSHRE and tutorial programme, which will focus on the mental health and well-being of the boys over the coming weeks and months. We also hope that the approach of trying to offer many of the normal activities as possible and getting the boys back as quickly as possible will help with this. I will let the parents of boarders know the situation regarding fees as soon as I am able to.

Once again, your continued support has been hugely appreciated, not just by myself but by all staff, as we have continued to work together during these very difficult circumstances. I know I speak for all staff when I say we are very much looking forward to seeing all the boys back during the week of 8th March 2021.

Yours faithfully

MARK THOMAS
Headteacher