



HIGHDOWN SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM CENTRE

Surley Row • Emmer Green • Reading • RG4 8LR

Tel: 0118 901 5800

E-mail: office@highdown.reading.sch.uk

Headteacher:
Rachel Cave BSc. NPQH

4th January 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year and I hope you all have had a restful and healthy break over the festive period.

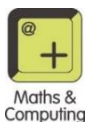
As you will have heard from the news, students will be wearing masks in class as well as in corridors and communal areas from our return to school. Students have complied extremely well with this in the past and we expect this to be the case again. Please ensure that your son or daughters have a mask and a spare with them.

We will keep our classrooms well ventilated and take a sensible decision if coats may be worn based on the temperature. This fluctuates around the school. Blazers must be worn at all times and coats are supplementary to this.

The start to the year is as follows:

- Tuesday 4th January is Professional Learning Day for staff and school is closed to students for lessons. We will be commencing the required asymptomatic testing on this day.
- Tuesday 4th January: Years 9, 11 and 13 will be tested by appointment on that day. They will be sent home following testing and notified of a positive result.
- Wednesday 5th January: Years 9, 11 and 13 will be in school for their normal lessons, assuming no positive test outcomes. Years 7, 8, 10 and 12 will be tested by appointment that day. They will be sent home following testing and notified of a positive result. They will be provided with recorded, on demand, lessons that day. 'Live' online lessons are not possible to schedule with the complexities of the testing day.
- Thursday 6th January: normal school day for all year groups.

I am sure you will have also heard that schools are likely to be facing significant staff shortages this term. We will, in all probability, have to have a rolling programme of year groups working remotely so that the school can be safely staffed. This will be published with as much notice as is possible. However, we do not wish to rush to do this as learning in school is so much better for all concerned. We will have a better idea about likely staffing following the Professional Learning Day for staff.



Please can families commit to twice weekly testing and reporting of results from their lateral flow tests.

A reminder, from the calendar that there is an early close on Thursday 13th January to facilitate the longer subject evening for our very large year 9 cohort. School will close at 2.45pm. Any centralised detentions on that day will commence at that time.

Wishing our whole community a happy and successful 2022.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rachel Cave". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'R' and 'C'.

Ms Cave
Headteacher