



12<sup>th</sup> March 2021

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**Principal:** Siobhan Kent

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a delight to be writing to you after welcoming our students back into school throughout the week. For staff and students alike, this was a daunting, yet eagerly anticipated time but I have to say, it has been a great success!

Our attendance has been over 96% this week, showing the commitment from our families to work with us to regain some normality and routine for our children, giving them access to their high-level classroom-based education once more. It has been a privilege to see friendships reigniting, to hear the constant background chatter and laughter within our walls and to enjoy our days again. Needless to say, there will be some very tired bodies this weekend!

Our staff have been able to support over 1000 tests this week alone. The students have been their usual wonderful selves in the way that they have calmly entered the test site, been thankful and appreciative of the staff supporting them and have then gone to re-engage in their lessons once again. We will continue our testing programme next week and will have completed all three tests for all children by the end of the day on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> March. On Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> March, our students will receive testing kits to complete twice weekly tests at home. Please don't worry about administering the tests as they are simple to use and come with clear instructions. I will also write to you on Thursday to give some further guidance.

It is our aim over the next couple of weeks to calmly continue to embed our routines and ensure that students have transitioned happily back into school. Following the Easter break, we will then be implementing interventions, both inside the classroom and out, to support the students in closing any learning gaps and addressing any pastoral needs that they may have. We are confident that we can get the students to where they need to be by the end of the summer term so that they can enjoy a hopefully restriction-free summer holiday before entering the new year in September!



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I will keep you updated as we move through into the summer term regarding any lifting of restrictions and changing of routines. Could I ask for your support in continuing to ensure that the students arrive at school in full uniform and meet our expectations regarding equipment and readiness to learn. We find that this promotes a sense of purpose and productivity in the students which we certainly need as we move forward. I refer you to our uniform booklet on the following link <https://www.sbch.org.uk/welcome-sbcs/school-uniform/>. I appreciate that it has been a while since the students have needed to conform to uniform requirements but this is an essential aspect of our daily lives in school.

So, as we move into the weekend, I wish you a restful and peaceful few days. How wonderful that we are once again in the position of our children being healthily tired due to concentration, social interaction and physical activity!

Take care and God Bless,

Siobhan Kent  
Principal