



25th February 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Carers

We hope you are enjoying your week so far helped by the noticeably improved weather.

We wanted to bring some certainty for parents with regard to the reopening of schools for all pupils from 8 March in this letter today. However, although we can do so with regard to our primary schools, unfortunately the logistics of mass testing in our secondary schools means that a definitive response for most of our secondary pupils cannot be taken until early next week.

Although in each of our primary schools some members of staff are shielding, all three schools will reopen on Monday 8 March at the staggered starting times which by now you will be aware of. Those teachers who are shielding will teach their pupils from home.

Since we wrote to you on Tuesday, we have worked out that we will need to recruit 14 members of staff to work in our secondary school testing centres in order to be able to undertake up to 300 tests daily. Each pupil is required to be tested three times in the first two weeks back at school if at all possible.

Although we are confident of recruiting the appropriate number of adults to work at the two centres, we obviously aren't aware of how many parents will give their consent to the tests for their children. We would therefore appreciate it if parents would complete these forms and 'submit' by the deadline which is the end of Friday 26 February. The Greenacre link to do so is [Greenacre Academy COVID-19 Testing Consent Form](#). The WGS link to do so is [Walderslade Girls' School COVID-19 Testing Consent Form](#). Regarding sixth

form students who do not need parental consent, they should complete the form themselves and submit it in the same way.

The short turnaround for replies will enable the two schools to plan a timetable of reopening for all year groups. Parents of Year 11 and Year 13 pupils will be pleased to hear that they will definitely restart on 8 March given the importance of those year groups as they strive to secure the best public examination grades that they can possibly achieve. We aim to have more news concerning the other year cohorts early next week.

Parents of Year 11 and Year 13 students may have heard via the media today that teachers will be asked for their 'teacher grades' on 18 June and therefore these students effectively have until almost that date to produce work which demonstrates their capability in each subject. Similar to last year, the teacher grades will be the final grades although there will be a sampling process undertaken by the examination bodies.

Thank you for your anticipated understanding and support over these matters and rest assured, we will continue to keep you fully updated.

Nikki King CBE and Andy Reese CEO