

5 March 2021

Good afternoon,

As our IT recovery operation gets underway following our recent cyber attack, we plan to prioritise our limited functionality to safely and effectively continue with our Lateral Flow testing programmes.

Year 13 students were successfully tested this morning and it was great to see them. We will continue with phase 1 testing as planned, with Years 11 and 12 tested on Monday, Years 7 and 10 on Tuesday, and then Years 8 and 9 on Wednesday.

The majority of our teaching and support staff are currently without devices whilst these are being secured and we remain very grateful for your patience as we start the rebuild of our system. With this in mind, we are forced to delay our original plan for a staggered return to on-site learning and ALL STUDENTS will now return to school on Thursday, 11 March 2021. We continue to provide in-school provision for critical worker children and vulnerable children but would recommend that critical worker children stay at home, if possible, as there is no IT provision for them in school.

In the meantime, students can now safely access their previous work on Teams and can continue to consolidate their previous learning, by revisiting this work and complimenting it with the vast range of materials available online via BBC Bite Size, Oak Academy, Seneca, GCSE POD, etc.

Year 11 and 13 should not look to cover any new material. They should now focus on revision utilising the resources at their disposal such as those listed above. We will soon provide these students with detailed plans regarding the assessment plan and timeline.

As we face the challenge ahead our trust has sourced external expertise and resources to ensure our recovery programme is as quick and efficient as possible and I can assure you we are working around the clock to resume full service, as soon as is physically possible.

The outpouring of support from you all, at this incredibly challenging time, has been heart-warming and gratefully received. Despite a pandemic and a cyber attack we remain in good spirits and are very much looking forward to seeing our students even though we all have to wait a few more days.

Please continue to check your email and the main school website over the coming days for important updates.

Kind regards,

Chris Eardley

Head of School
Toot Hill School