

Godolphin School
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Mrs Emma Hattersley
Head

1 January 2021

Dear Parents

I hope you have all remained well over the Christmas period and that your daughters are rested. Following the Government announcement on Wednesday, I write today with, I suspect, the first of many communications regarding arrangements for the start of the Spring Term. As things currently stand, we have some of the information we need but are still awaiting guidance on various aspects of testing. We will share with you what our current plans are but as this is a fast moving situation please be aware that things may have to change again.

Currently there are two key considerations. First, concerning return dates for various different year groups, domestic boarders, international boarders and sarums. Second, how the testing programme will run. School will return ONLINE on Tuesday 5 January for all Senior School students.

School return timetable, and other relevant documents, can be found [HERE](#).

Online Lessons

Lessons will be provided through Teams, with girls following a full normal timetable, including pastoral support such as tutor time and prayers. Practical lessons will continue to provide subject education in the best way possible remotely, possibly involving supported project work.

The girls will need to be dressed and in a quiet location suitable for study, ideally not in a bedroom, and we would strongly encourage them to turn on their video cameras in all lessons. Prep will be set as normal, but we are sensitive to the need to minimise screen time where possible.

Testing

We need to provide you with as much information as possible about the mass testing programme which schools are expected to undertake and how that will operate at Godolphin. Included here are links to various important documents that you will need to read, including a consent form, in order that your daughter can be tested.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the documents below.

(Alternatively if for any reason, this doesn't work from your device, please [SELECT THIS LINK](#))

1. Letter about testing
2. Consent form and instructions for completion – please complete asap
3. Volunteer form
4. Privacy notice
5. Q & A for students
6. How to do your test



7. School return and testing timetable

/Continued overleaf...

Volunteers

Thank you to those parents who have already offered to help with the testing. If you do feel you can help, please complete the form in the link above. We are not quite sure yet how many people we will need and we are still awaiting details about training. The bulk of testing, and thus the most intense period, is likely to be over the next three weeks as we endeavour to test our whole community of staff and students. Thereafter, we believe and are hopeful that the demand will recede somewhat, so volunteers are going to be of most use during this initial period of time.

Boarding

We are looking forward to welcoming our boarders back. Boarders should arrive at school as per the schedule above. Testing will take place in the PAC Foyer so please leave all your belongings in your vehicle until you have received your test result. Please pack lightly and minimise soft furnishings. Once you have received a negative result, you will be able to access your boarding house. We must ask parents and adults to remain in their cars please as only Godolphin students are permitted to enter the boarding houses. House staff will be on hand to greet and help you. Please have any medication, pocket money or important documents in an envelope and hand this to your housemistress on arrival. We will be asking any domestic boarders who test positive to return home to isolate. International boarders will be isolated in the Health Centre if they test positive. Online lessons will be available to all students who are well enough to join should this be the case.

Transport

School buses will not run in the week commencing Monday 4 January, we are looking at a limited service from the week commencing 11 January (more information will be sent out on this once routes and timings have been confirmed with the coach company) and a full service from the week commencing 18 January. Where parents have pre-booked journeys and they are unable to use the service due to online teaching or the route not running they will not be charged.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year and let us hope that it isn't too long before Godolphin can return to some semblance of normality. If the promised vaccine roll out is swift, I am hopeful we can have a summer term with less restrictions. I look forward to that immensely.

Yours sincerely



Emma Hattersley