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SIDMOUTH COLLEGE

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Principal: Mrs S Parsons

Tel: 01395 514823

Friday 5th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that everyone is well and looking forward to the imminent return to the College. If you haven't done so already I would encourage you to look at the reopening page of the website, as this will help students make a smooth transition next week.

<https://www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk/march-reopening.html>

The letter that was sent out earlier in the week contained all the key pieces of information about the first day back. You should also this week have received the time for your son/daughter's COVID test taking place on Monday 8th March for Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 and on Tuesday 9th March for Years 7, 8 & 9.

When students do start back at the College the senior team will be on the gates in the morning to welcome them and direct them to their tutor room if they are unsure where to go.

A few reminders:

- Years 10, 11, 12 & 13 will start back on Tuesday 9th March.
- Years 7, 8 & 9 will start back on Wednesday 10th March.
- Arrive at the correct time for your year group.
- Full College uniform to be worn on the first day (no additional piercings, nail varnish or unusual hair colours).
- Wearing a face mask (unless exempt).
- Make sure in your bag you have all the equipment you will need to be successful on your first day back.

Students will spend the first part of the day with their tutor; this will include an expectation assembly, walk around the one-way system, being issued with a new timetable (as some rooms may have changed) and a wellbeing check-in conversation.

Recovery curriculum planning.

We all recognise that the disruption to education with the College closure will impact on our students' knowledge and skills within subject areas. As a result of this, at the start of the academic year as part of our College improvement plan we prioritised recovery curriculum planning. All subject areas have been using a 'Map, Master and Move Forward' approach to our recovery curriculum. Mapping where students are in their learning, mastering the learning using the mapping to do this, and then moving forward with new content and the next sequence of learning. All subject areas have recovery curriculum planning documents which are reviewed and updated regularly following assessments throughout the year and adaptations to curriculum planning is an ongoing cycle.

Over the past week all subject areas have been having discussions within teams about where students are with their learning and how curriculum plans will be adapted. Please be reassured that there is a great deal of work taking place within each curriculum area on this College priority and that the subject teachers will be working hard to ensure that students are not disadvantaged by the pandemic over the past year.

Email: enquiries@sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

Website: www.sidmouthcollege.devon.sch.uk

Lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff

The Government issued guidance yesterday about rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff. From 1 March 2021, if you're a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a student you can get a twice-weekly test:

- through your employer if they offer testing to employees
- at a local test site
- by collecting a home test kit from a test site
- by ordering a home test kit online

Please click on the link below for more detailed information:

[Rapid lateral flow testing for households and bubbles of school pupils and staff - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff)

Find your nearest home test kit collection point by visiting: <https://find-covid-19-rapid-test-sites.maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/> and enter your postcode in the search bar at the top of the screen.

All of the staff at the College are really looking forward to welcoming back our students next week. I am sure that it will be a fantastic start back.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Parsons', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Mrs S Parsons
Principal