



# Castle Donington College

Principal: Mrs Julie Sheppard

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JS/LD/C20

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

Dear Castle Donington College Community,

We are about to open our Test Centre to pupils following the raft of announcements relating to schools last week. I am delighted that our plans allow us to welcome all pupils back by 10th March.

## **Pupils' Return**

When the pupils return we will revert back to our established zone model, with year groups allocated a suite of classrooms for all lessons. There is no doubt that it will take a while for us all to assimilate and settle into the routine of a school day but my staff and I are really looking forward to seeing all the children again.

## **Pupil Lateral Flow Testing**

Tomorrow we undertake the first supervised lateral Flow tests for Year 11 pupils. This will take place in our Test Centre, situated in the Hall. I am very grateful to all of the dedicated staff who have been involved in the conversion of this space and the organisation of the mass testing programme. To date, 81% of the pupil population have consent to receive a test, which reflects our community's support for reducing the transmission rate. Consent for testing can still be submitted through the online MS Forms. The link to this and other information can be found in my previous letter.

Please note that we will be closing the College gates throughout the test days to ensure the safety of pupils on site. We ask that, if arriving by car, you are considerate of the local residents, when parking.

Pupils will only be on site for the time that it takes to complete the test. Tests will be administered by friendly faces from the College. Pupils will enter and exit the site through the carpark and be asked to line up alongside the Hall. They will be instructed to observe social distance while queuing and are required to wear a face covering. They will be asked a number of Covid-related questions and registration details will be checked. They should bring a mobile device with them if possible. Registration must be completed in advance of any test. To speed up the onsite process we ask you to do this in advance. (You will have been sent an email regarding registration). Please get in touch if you are unsure of any part of this process.

We are aiming to complete the second and third supervised tests with pupils, when they are back in College, up to 17th March. Pupils will then be provided with home testing kits.

## **Year 9 Options**

Our online Year 9 options process has now closed. We are delighted at how well the Year 9 pupils engaged with our programme and impressed at the mature way they discussed and chose their option subjects for next year.

## **Summer School**

You may have seen announcements in the media about potential summer schools. We have no further details on this and my advice to families is to organise your summer around what is best for you and your loved ones. If we do have a summer school offer this will be targeted and very much focused on fun and allowing children to socialise and interact with each other.

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## **Year 11**

Finally, we are working on plans for our incredible Year 11 pupils. This year group has amazed me as they have worked incredibly hard through three lockdowns and maintained their focus throughout. They are a credit to you and the College.

We welcome our Year 11s back on Monday 8th March, hoping to maximise the time that we have with them and gather as much evidence as possible, so that they are awarded the grades that they deserve.

As you know, schools are responsible for awarding grades this year and we will share our plans shortly. We are discussing the evidence base that will be used and our internal mechanisms to review evidence at class teacher, department and Year group level. It is absolutely crucial that all of Year 11 pupils return on time with a positive attitude as every lesson and opportunity will potentially make a difference to their final grade.

The final date for submission of grades to the exam boards is 18th June 2021 and with this in mind the leaving date for Year 11 will be Friday 28th May. We cannot wait to welcome Year 11 back so we can support them during the last stage of their Castle Donington College Journey.

I hope that you are all feeling as positive as I am. I really am excited about the prospect of having a full school again, seeing a crowd of smiling faces and hearing the cries of excitement and happiness as our wonderful children enjoy the emerging springtime and return to learning.

As always, get in touch if you think we can help you in any way and take care of each other.

Julie Sheppard



Principal