



# Plymouth High School for Girls

*"For life, not school, we learn"*

23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

I do hope you are all well and were able to enjoy some downtime over the half term.

I am sure that you will have heard the Prime Minister's address yesterday and the news that schools can reopen from the 8th March.

Schools have been asked to conduct lateral flow tests with students and staff before they begin full time attendance. The PM has said "All secondary school students will take coronavirus (COVID-19) tests as they return to the classroom from Monday 8 March". The Government has confirmed that secondary schools can phase the return of students so that we can carry out testing in a controlled manner. I will write to you with the details of this in due course.

We have been informed by the Government that after an initial programme of 3 tests in school, students will be provided with two rapid tests to use each week at home. Secondary school staff will also be provided with two tests to use each week at home.

The PM has also said that face coverings should be worn by students and staff in classrooms, corridors and communal settings. Face coverings would not be worn for PE lessons. It also looks as if we will be able to resume at least some of our after school provision.

We have set out our academic assessment procedure for the remainder of this academic year. The letter you will receive this week from Miss Roughton will provide you with full details.

It is likely that assemblies will continue to be conducted in the tutor rooms and that the year 7 and 8 zonal areas will remain. We will also maintain the school entrance and exit arrangements that we were using before this latest lockdown. The school lunch offer will revert to the plan we had before Christmas until such time that we are permitted to allow year groups to mix in a single space.

I will write to you again once we have firmed up our plans.

In the meantime, I encourage our students to continue to work hard in their zoom lessons in preparation for returning to school.

We are all very much looking forward to welcoming our young people back to school.

Very best wishes,



**Simon Underdown.**  
**Headteacher**

