

# Malmesbury School

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Headteacher: Rupert Moreton

RMO/rem  
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Dear Parents and Carers

We are excited to be welcoming back the whole school community next week; it will be wonderful to see all our students again. May we take this opportunity to congratulate all our students for their hard work and resilience during this latest lockdown experience. Thank you everyone.

Our plans communicated to you about each year group's process of readmission along with a range of other useful information can be found on the front page of the website <https://www.malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk/>. Please can all students remember to bring a coat to wear whilst they are waiting outside for their test results. In the event of very wet weather, we have an indoor contingency plan.

The testing process is well under way and we have been very impressed with the way that Year 12 and 13 have come into school and conducted their tests. Please be reminded that we will only contact parents in the event of a positive test result.

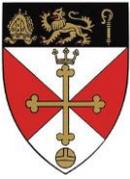
After Test 3, students will be given a pack of 7 home tests to take home and test themselves twice a week. You will need to upload the result to [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result)

As we are also required to maintain school records of results, you will also need to complete the following form for each home test result:

<b>Year 7 Home Testing Results Form</b>	<a href="https://forms.office.com/r/VunbGw9Mnv">https://forms.office.com/r/VunbGw9Mnv</a>
<b>Year 8 Home Testing Results Form</b>	<a href="https://forms.office.com/r/jfVWykF9YS">https://forms.office.com/r/jfVWykF9YS</a>
<b>Year 9 Home Testing Results Form</b>	<a href="https://forms.office.com/r/tGOoD5oZmo">https://forms.office.com/r/tGOoD5oZmo</a>
<b>Year 10 Home Testing Results Form</b>	<a href="https://forms.office.com/r/zOfG4OfQf4">https://forms.office.com/r/zOfG4OfQf4</a>
<b>Year 11 Home Testing Results Form</b>	<a href="https://forms.office.com/r/mGFtX-iecT">https://forms.office.com/r/mGFtX-iecT</a>
<b>Year 12 Home Testing Results Form</b>	<a href="https://forms.office.com/r/DEoK-XoIHl">https://forms.office.com/r/DEoK-XoIHl</a>
<b>Year 13 Home Testing Results Form</b>	<a href="https://forms.office.com/r/LYoQwd_VPP">https://forms.office.com/r/LYoQwd_VPP</a>



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Please note that the home testing kits provided by the school are only for student use. Home testing kits for parents etc. are not available from the school. Government guidance states that:

*From 1 March 2021, if you are a member of a household, childcare bubble or support bubble of staff or a pupil 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*

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/rapid-lateral-flow-testing-for-households-and-bubbles-of-school-pupils-and-staff>

### **Assemblies**

Here is the link to the SLT assembly for this week from Jennifer Howe, Assistant Headteacher with a theme of hope and positivity: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZZBgg5diKU>

Once students have returned to lessons assemblies will continue to be held virtually once a week as per our weekly tutorial programme.

### **Student briefing**

This important [PowerPoint Presentation \(malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk\)](https://www.malmesbury.wilts.sch.uk) will be shared by tutors prior to students returning to school and again during tutor time next week. It covers many areas of the school provision including health and safety, testing and break and lunch time arrangements.

### **PE clubs and activities**

The PE Faculty is not intending to start any regular extra-curricular before Easter because of the focus on testing and allowing students to get back into the routine of their school day. After Easter, however, they would like to give the students as full an after-school and lunch time extra-curricular programme as possible.

For the first half-term PE intend to offer a range of more traditional 'winter' activities such as netball, hockey, football, rugby and basketball. After May half-term they plan to run more traditional 'summer' activities such as athletics, cricket, tennis and rounders.

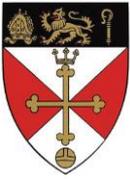
### **Y11 and Y13 Exam Grading**

At the end of last week, the government released guidance about awarding grades this summer; details can be found by following this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021/awarding-qualifications-in-summer-2021>

All schools are still awaiting further guidance from Ofqual and the exam boards but are currently making plans to ensure that we award the grades as fairly as possible. The key message is that a broad range of evidence will be used to determine grades and that students will only be assessed on the content that they have covered.

We have planned some in class assessments before Easter which subject teachers have communicated details about, to their students, via TEAMS. These assessments may be used as part of the evidence base and help students to identify areas of strength and weakness. We are making plans for other assessment opportunities after Easter which is likely to include a two-week assessment period starting on the 26 April. These assessments are likely to take place centrally (in the hall/gym or access arrangements room) to allow





them to be completed fairly and consistently. It is important to mention that they will not be full set exam papers.

We are planning for these assessments to be completed anonymously as an extra measure to help the process of grading students as fairly as possible. These assessments will also not be the only evidence used when grading students. Along with the COVID testing we will also ensure that all Covid safety measures are taken to reduce any risks during these assessments.

More details about these will be shared as soon as we are able.

Our advice to students, as it has been since the start of lockdown, is to continue to revise and consolidate the work they have covered in their courses to prepare as best they can for any assessment opportunities.

### **When do Year 11 and 13 finish school for the summer?**

At this moment we are waiting on guidance from the government.

### **Year 11 and 13 reports**

Due to lockdown, and the need to complete the process of awarding grades without external examinations, we do not feel that the Year 11 and Year 13 reports due in April are appropriate to send out anymore. Teachers will be providing feedback within lessons to support students in making progress, and we urge them to make the most of this to support their studies. We are unable to share the grades we award to students prior to results day, and therefore providing grades within reports is also not possible.

We appreciate that this is a lot of information and that there are still a lot of unknowns. We do not want and students to worry about this and will try to give updates as soon as we can to avoid stress and anxiety. We are looking forward to having students back in lessons so that we can return to teaching them face to face and support them as much as possible.

With best wishes

Yours sincerely

Rupert Moreton  
Headteacher

