



WINCHESTER
COLLEGE

Message from the Headmaster – transcript

Good morning,

There are two major things to talk about obviously. The first is the new vision for the school which the Warden revealed on the 9th Feb. Thank you to those who have written in. It won't surprise you to learn that some have been in favour and some have been against, but in general the response has been about 2:1 in favour and that is a very reassuring thing as we go forwards.

The direction of travel as the Warden has made clear is set out, but we're interested in the different stops, pauses and routes along the way so the Warden's advertised the parents consultation evenings in the last week of this term beginning on March the 22nd and we look forward to those discussions and the best possible way forward with these very exciting and ambitious new plans.

The second thing to discuss is, of course, the return to school for that is what the good news given by the Prime Minister last night is now making possible. Our priorities have always been the same; number one – health, number two – education (with special thought given to those in public exam years). Now there's an awful lot of detail to fill in and you'll have to bear with us while we do that, not least in public exams because although Ofqual was supposed to tell us yesterday what the arrangements would be that's been postponed until at least Thursday. But in general the arrangements will be like this - we shall of course implement all the government testing which is lateral flow but we will retain our own methods, the Samba testing machines which have proved so successful. We will welcome back on Monday the 8th of March, the top year and on Tuesday the 9th of March, the third year, those being the two public exam years. Thereafter we will welcome back JP, MP and VI Book 2. The order of that might change slightly. There will be no teaching of any kind on Monday and on Tuesday the 8th and 9th of March or in the afternoon of Wednesday the 10th.

We do not expect any overseas pupils to be able to return - they'll be welcome to do so if they can of course. Therefore remote teaching will carry on being provided. As I say, please bear with us while we work out the detail of these changes but there they are in broad outline.

There is of course (as I'll be reminded) one other issue, Winkies. Will there be Winchester College football on return? Answer, yes there will be, we're ready for it. There will need to be some consultation with the international 'Winchester College Football Health Organization' and also with the 'Winchester College Football International Rules Association' as to quite what it's safe to do in a way that will satisfy the school's insurers, but those consultations shouldn't take too long and I'm confident that the season can before long be fully underway...

I look forward to that and to everything else that's been described, thank you very much indeed for your forbearance while all these things have been worked out, and for your future forbearance as we confirm the fine detail. Very best wishes to all around the world from all here at Winchester - thank you for listening