

RESPECT

ASPIRE



Dame Elizabeth  
**CADBURY**

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BELIEVE

COMMIT

17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

### **Autumn Term 2020**

After a very long and challenging term I write for the last time as we break up for the Christmas holiday. Whilst the term and indeed the lead up to Christmas has been anything but normal, the support we have received from parents and the determination with which pupils have approached their studies has been incredible. Working in partnership with parents and instilling determined ambition (despite COVID) in pupils is at the core of what we have set out to achieve. We feel we have succeeded this term in so many ways. We have had only one short, partial closure for Years 8 and 9, and we have kept self-isolation to a minimum with our carefully constructed contact tracing systems. We have had a comparatively low number of cases and we are extremely proud of achieving minimal disruption to pupils' education. I feel it necessary to say a public thank you to all of the amazing DEC staff who have made the term so successful, their hard work has been relentless and their impact profound.

### **Spring Term 2021**

As we look ahead to the spring term, mock exams are only a few weeks away for Year 11 and Year 13 and all pupils will be returning in January 2021 to continue making accelerated progress in all of their subjects following the same timetable that has been the case this term. There are also some vocational examinations taking place in the first week back. Pupils who have exams have received their examination timetables.

You will have no doubt seen The Government's announcement of their intention to roll out rapid mass-testing processes for secondary schools in January. The full press release from the Department for Education can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/secondary-schools-and-colleges-to-get-weekly-coronavirus-testing>

The Government have released a statement today about the start of the spring term, the full version of which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/staggered-rollout-of-coronavirus-testing-for-secondary-schools-and-colleges>

The specific points which affect the start of the spring term are:

- Students in exam year groups (Years 11 and 13), vulnerable children and children of critical workers will all attend school or college in person from the start of term (for us this is Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January)
- Secondary schools and colleges will operate a staggered return, offering all non-exam year groups full-time remote education, as close as possible to that which students would get in class, during the first week of term, with face-to-face education for all starting on 11<sup>th</sup> January (for us, remote learning for year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will start on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January).

Once we have further details regarding the onsite COVID-19 testing system, we will write to update all parents and carers. Until then, I'd like to wish a very Merry Christmas to everyone in the DEC family, and a Happy New Year. Stay safe and enjoy precious time with those you hold dear.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Dunn  
Head Teacher

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