



December 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Christmas Update and January 2022 Return to School Arrangements**

As we draw to the end of 2021, we want to thank our students and families for their hard work and support in what has been a very challenging year. This term we have been particularly delighted to see so many of our students taking part in a wide selection of clubs, activities, trips, initiatives and shows. Don't forget you can keep up to date with all the latest news by following us on [Twitter](#) – 'Marshlandhs'.

The last day of term on Friday is a full school day with the usual finish time of 3:15pm and transport as usual. Please note the only earlier finish is on the last day of term in July.

### **January Return**

Given the recent Government updates, high transmission levels of the new variant of COVID, and the requirement for us to lateral flow test all students on their return in January, we will have to reintroduce year groups on a phased programme in January.

**Tuesday 4th January – Staff Training INSET Day (no students in school)**

**Wednesday 5th January - Year 11 and 7 only to return**

**Thursday 6th January - Years 8 and 10 will return to school alongside Y7 & Y11**

**Friday 7th January - Year 9 return - all students in school**

We will be using the consent you previously provided for in-school testing. Only email [office@marshlandhigh.co.uk](mailto:office@marshlandhigh.co.uk) if you would like to change your consent by Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January. If you have not consented, you will have received a separate email.

It is important that all students should still undertake a lateral flow test at home on the evening prior, or morning of their first day back. Testing kits are available through tutor groups. Please refer to all the latest [government guidance](#) on testing and isolation online. If your child is required to self-isolate, loan laptops are once again available from school.

We are doing everything we can to keep our students and staff safe. This simple and painless testing process is one way you can help. Through all our testing rounds, our students have been amazing in helping us. We would like to thank the parents, volunteers and staff who have stepped in to make this possible.

### **Attendance**

With our students having been subject to so much disruption and missed learning, we will continue to focus on school attendance. I am pleased to say whole school attendance has risen slightly since October half term, however is still not where it needs to be for many students.

When you factor out those who have been absent due to adhering to valid COVID guidance, which we acknowledge has been unavoidable for many, there are still far too many students having too much time off school for very minor reasons, often a day here and a day there. Next term, we will be focusing our attention on these students.

This week we have recognised and rewarded a large number of students with 100% attendance badges in our celebration assemblies. For those who did not manage 100% this term, they have an opportunity now to achieve it by coming in every day during the spring term. We very much rely on your support and encouragement for your child, and thank you in advance for supporting good attendance at school.

Finally, I would like to wish all our students and their families a safe and restful Christmas break and we look forward to seeing you back in January.

Yours faithfully

**Mr Craig Jansen**  
**Headteacher**