



The TRUE Learning Partnership



# Poynton High School and Performing Arts College

Head Teacher: Mr M Dean

Friday, 12 March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I want to congratulate students on how well they have returned to face to face learning and to thank you for the support that has enabled the return to be so positive. I also want to thank our staff who have made the learning and the extensive testing so successful.

### Return to lessons

Today it was fantastic to see all years back and learning with us. A school without the buzz of students is a very strange place! Attendance has been excellent and students have cooperated really well with the mitigation measures in place to support us all. By doing this they are looking out for each other and I am grateful for their community spirit and the support from you at home.

### Lateral Flow Testing

This week we have conducted around 2,000 tests in school. 97% of the students and parents have consented which again is so helpful in the fight against COVID-19. We have been testing since Christmas on a smaller scale and although we had two positive tests in school earlier in the term there have been none this week. This is very reassuring but I would urge students to remember that the test is not an absolute guarantee that they are negative and they must not change their behaviour until the national guidance changes. We have started the second of three tests with some year groups this week and will continue until all those being tested have had three tests in school. We will arrange this in the school day so there is no need for these tests to be booked by you.

At the time of the third test we will give the student the home testing kit and will provide further guidance on that next week.

Thank you for your support which has enabled us to test so many this week, I also want to thank our staff and the volunteers who have helped to make this happen.

### Awarding of Grades to Year 11 and 13 in 2021

We are still awaiting the information from the examination boards and I will update students next week on this. I want to set out a plan that is final and so have resisted sending something based on initial speculation which we know can change. The outline in the letter to students last week remains our plan. Students should continue working on the NEA, where relevant, and will be working with their teachers to prepare themselves for the assessments which will be mainly in the weeks after Easter. Before Easter we will issue revision lists and guidance on the format of the assessments. Although normally we would

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expect students to revise the whole course we recognise that this is not appropriate this year so the revision needed will be much reduced compared to a normal year. Lessons will also be used to ensure that students have the skills and knowledge to show themselves at their best in the assessments. There will be no mock exams in the hall and the assessments will be done in class in 45 minutes blocks so they are manageable for students. We have some good evidence already and this can be used but we believe that these assessments are the best way of helping students prove themselves. I am sure that you will encourage your son or daughter to revise effectively over Easter and we will provide further information about revision before we break up.

As I mentioned last week students will receive their results on 10 August for A level and 12 August for GCSE. We will be able to update you on the leaving date for students when we have the final information from the government, which will hopefully be before Easter. Students have performed well this week but I am sure that they are tired! I hope that you and your child have a good weekend and I look forward to seeing them on Monday.

Yours sincerely,

*Matthew Dean*

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