



You will be aware that the regulatory wind has shifted again in recent days, and that as a consequence we are altering course with regards to the resumption of School in January, and also with regards to lateral flow testing for COVID-19.

Resumption of School for the Lent Term

In accordance with government guidance, Mount Kelly will implement a staggered start to the Lent Term, as follows:

Year Groups	Return to School	
Nursery to Year 6, Year 11 & Upper Sixth	Boarders	Mon 4 Jan
	Day pupils	Tue 5 Jan
Years 7 to 10 & Lower Sixth	Boarders	Sun 10 Jan
	Day pupils	Mon 11 Jan

Lessons for pupils in Years 7 to 10 and in the Lower Sixth will be delivered remotely, via Teams, just as was the case throughout the Summer Term. Attendance at lessons will be compulsory, prep will continue to be set in the normal way, and tutors and class teachers will keep in regular contact with their tutees during this time.

Pupils in the year groups that are being taught remotely for the first week of term should be logged-on and ready for lessons by 8:30 each morning.

As per the previous Update to Parents (11 Dec 20), the school day will conclude at 16:30, though for the first week of term and, in accordance with government guidelines, there will be no sport or extra-curricular activities beyond this time, nor will there be any sport within the school day (apart from timetabled, academic PE lessons). This includes swimming.

It is our intention to resume swimming training, the now-established games afternoons (Tuesdays at the College and Wednesdays at the Prep), and the after-school (ie post-16:30) extra-curricular programme from Mon 11 Jan.

Overseas Pupils

The parents of overseas boarders in those years with a delayed return should only amend their children's travel plans if they are able to do so easily and without financial penalty. Pupils whose travel plans cannot at this stage be altered, are very welcome to return to School at the time and date originally planned. They will be accommodated within their boarding houses and will be able to access their lessons via Teams, in exactly the same way as though they were at home.

The Quarantine Camp will run as planned, and we do not anticipate making changes to this. There remains capacity, however, for additional numbers, so should any overseas parents wish to book their son or daughter onto the Quarantine Camp, they should do so using this [link](#).

Internal examinations and assessments

The programme of internal examinations and assessments was published in the previous Updates to Parents, and will run as normal, commencing with assessments for pupils in Years 7 & 8, which will take place in week 2.

Lateral Flow Testing

Again, in accordance with government guidance, we will be implementing a programme of lateral flow testing. As you might imagine, there are some logistical issues to address in the delivery of this programme, and not least with regards to staffing, and it may well be that we seek volunteers from amongst our local parents to help in the administration of the tests.

Further details regarding the testing programme will be published in the new year, once the government has itself issued further instructions.

Conclusion

As always, the health and wellbeing of the School community remains our absolute priority. As has been the case throughout the pandemic, however, proportionality and common sense remain our watchwords, and we will always be on the front foot, committed to delivering excellence in all aspects of our programme and seeking to minimise disruption to your children's experience of a Mount Kelly education.

Thank you, again, for your support.