

17<sup>th</sup> December 2020

### DfE Announcement Today

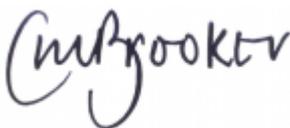
Dear parents and carers

Good afternoon - this is a brief message in response to the announcement today regarding students' return to school in January and the responsibility placed on schools with regard to testing of students and our employees. Clearly, the timing of the announcement is not helpful, as there is so little time to plan for what is a very significant change. There remains also a lack of clarity about both the return to school and the feasibility and logistics of our taking responsibility for testing.

As you are aware, our schools have done a huge amount to maintain provision for our students, including the significant proportion who have had to self-isolate during this term. We all recognise the need to contribute positively to what is a national crisis. However, in the light of last-minute announcements and a lack of detailed information from the DfE, at this time, I can only reassure you that we will keep you informed, when we are able to do so, of any plans and specific information we have.

In what has been an extremely challenging time, we have been heartened by the many messages of support and appreciation parents have sent to the schools.

Kind regards



Mrs. CM. Brooker  
**CEO, Arété Learning Trust**

*"Being the best we can be by uniting schools,  
communities and families, to secure success  
for all young people"*

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