



Thursday 31 December 2020

Dear Parent

January Return – Update 2

Further to my letter of Friday 18 December, there has been an updated announcement from the Government directing students' staggered return to school over the next two weeks. The information below therefore replaces what was written previously.

Staggered return to school

Yesterday, the Government announced that secondary schools are to implement a phased return to on-site learning in the first **two** weeks of term. This means that:

Between Tuesday 5 January and Friday 8 January:

- **Vulnerable children* and children of critical workers* will return to school as normal.**
- **All other students will remain at home and access their learning remotely**, via Microsoft Teams. We will endeavour to make as many of these lessons live as possible, though this will be dependent on the number of students in the academy.
- **Year 10 and 11 students taking their Travel & Tourism examination on Friday 8 January** will attend school on that day from 8.30am to 11.00am. Students should access the site through their normal gate. To support preparation for this examination, we will be running additional remote revision sessions and individual check-ins during the week, and will confirm the times of these on Monday 4 January.

Between Monday 11 January and Friday 15 January:

- **Vulnerable children* and children of critical workers* will continue to attend school as normal.**
- **Year 11 students will return to school as normal.**
- **All other students will remain at home and continue to access their learning remotely**, via Microsoft Teams.

It is anticipated that **all students will then return to school as normal on Monday 18 January.**

Students attending school will follow normal routines, with no changes to the structure of the school day or uniform expectations, including face coverings.

For students learning remotely, full guidance on how to access form time and lessons via Microsoft Teams will be reissued on Monday 4 January.

*Please see the link enclosed for guidance on vulnerable children and children of critical workers.

Free school meals provision

We will continue to provide free school meals for eligible families throughout the first two weeks of term. Please complete the form we have shared to access this. We will then issue details of how this will be provided, on Monday 4 January.

Coronavirus testing in schools

From the second week in January, all schools should have access to significant additional optional testing for coronavirus. The intent of this is to more rapidly identify students who may have the virus without symptoms, therefore preventing them passing it on unknowingly. And, to reduce the number of students who need to self-isolate when positive tests for others are received.

We are currently awaiting further details of how this will work. In the meantime, I would like to reassure parents that once this is in place, no student will be tested without parental consent. We will keep you fully informed with the process when we have further information.

Further information – please return form when issued

We shared a Microsoft Forms questionnaire earlier in the holiday. This will now be reshared as it was not previously required for Year 11 students. We would appreciate you completing the questionnaire if your child is in Year 11, or you have not already done so. This will allow us to plan how many students we will have in school, and how to best support those who are not attending, especially those in receipt of free school meals or without access to ICT at home.

Thank you

I have asked that staff and students take a well-deserved break over the Christmas holiday. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's return in January, please contact us through our normal channels and we will respond promptly on the 4 January, before the beginning of term.

Thank you for your continued support throughout these changing circumstances. I hope that yesterday's other news - regarding another approved vaccine - sets a positive direction for the time ahead, and with that in mind, wish you all, the best possible start to the New Year.

Yours faithfully



Mr B Driver
Principal

Enclosed:

Guidance on critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>