



**Our Ref:** DJA|NMO|492

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

My sincere apologies for communicating with you on the last day of the year! However, you will be aware of the announcement yesterday in Parliament of the significant changes to the start of the school term. I need to let you know what they are and how they will impact upon you and your children.

### **INSET DAYS**

Due to the need for schools to provide mass testing for students and staff we will need to hold an additional INSET day on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

We will run **TWO** Inset days at the start of term:

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 will be our usual developmental day and preparation for staff for the coming term;
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 will be used for the Covid testing of all staff and preparing for the mass testing of all students.

### **DATES FOR STUDENTS TO RETURN**

The Education Minister has changed the dates for students to return in January:

From **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January** - key workers' children and those students designated as vulnerable should attend school. They will need to come in via their separate year group bubble entrances and keep socially distanced. They will be tested upon arrival.

Please use this [link](#) and submit the form if your child is eligible to be in school - including those students in year 11 and 13.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January** - Year 13 students will be invited in to be tested in school. These invitations will be issued next week.

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January** - Year 11 students will be invited to be tested in school. A booking system will be published next week so that parents/carers can pre-book an appointment.

From **11<sup>th</sup> January**, years 11 and 13 students should physically attend school. They will need to come in using the separate entrances and maintain social distance until they are tested.

From **18<sup>th</sup> January** all students are expected to attend school unless they are medically unwell.

**Transport:**

Head Teacher - David Alexander BA (Hons); MSc

- All home to school transport will operate 'as normal' with effect from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, so that anyone who needs to access it will be able to do so. This includes vulnerable and key worker children. The buses will continue to operate for the very small number of students who may make use of it.
- Stage Coach is operating all its public transport routes so those who need to access public bus system will also be able to get to school.
- Private bus contractors who operate for some secondary schools are liaising with schools and parents to clarify routes that will continue to be needed albeit with reduced passenger numbers in the first couple of weeks of term.

### **BLENDED LEARNING**

All students will have access to online learning from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January. The link below will lead you to a document which sets out the expectations of online learning as well as the safeguarding protocols. Please do read this and encourage your children to do so. For most of the students, online learning will be the only way of accessing taught lessons for at least two weeks. It is critical that they are familiar with the expectations and the protocols.

[Please click on this link for our Guide to Blended Learning](#)

### **EXTERNAL EXAMS**

These vocational exams will go ahead on the set dates, with the first one on the 7<sup>th</sup> January. We will be in touch with the individual students to provide details about the organisation of these closer to this date.

### **TESTING**

All students are offered the facility of being tested. We aim to test every student on their return to school. We are aiming to do this twice, once as they return and once 3 -5 days later. Details of that testing will be provided at a later date and is subject to the delivery of the testing kits.

In order to access the test, parents/carers should read the attached letter from the NHS as well as completing both the registration form and the consent form, also attached (please click on links at foot of letter for attachments). Please return your completed consent form by email to [admin@rednockschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@rednockschool.org.uk) or hard copy to main reception in the year group boxes in the foyer before the date that the student returns to school.

We have included the explanatory sheets from NHS so that you have an understanding of what the testing will entail and how it will work.

We will contact you **ONLY** if there is a positive test for your child or they have been in close contact with someone who has had a positive test.

If a student has a positive test they will be expected to be collected and taken home **immediately** to prevent the spread of the virus. They **MUST** then apply for a PCR test via the government website and self-isolate in line with Public Health England guidance.

If a student has been in close contact with someone who has tested positive, they will be tested for 7 days in school. If, however, they do not wish to participate in the testing, they will need to self-isolate at home for 10 days and take a PCR test if they develop any symptoms.

Head Teacher - David Alexander BA (Hons); MSc

## **VOLUNTEERS**

The mass testing will pose significant staffing demands. Should you be willing to assist with the mass testing, please do let us know. We appreciate any offers of help from our community. Thank you to those of you who have already offered. We will be in touch, now that we have more information.

## **FINALLY**

Thank you for your patience and support; this has been an extraordinary year which has placed enormous challenges for us to overcome. These recent changes add to that strain; however, I feel that we are well placed as a School and as a community to weather these challenges. There is a lot to take in – please do take your time in reading this communication.

We will be available from 4<sup>th</sup> January to support you with the return to school and the mass testing. However, if you have pressing concerns please email us at: [reopening.enquiries@rednockschool.org.uk](mailto:reopening.enquiries@rednockschool.org.uk).

Thank you,

Yours sincerely



**David Alexander**  
**Head Teacher**

### **Attachments:**

**NHS Letter and Registration Form**

**NHS Consent Form**

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