

**31st December 2020**

RE: Vulnerable students and those whose parents are Critical or Key Workers

Dear Parents / Carers,

In his letter yesterday, Mr Rule outlined the staggered start of term in January 2021.  Online learning will be in place for the majority of students, but if you are employed as a key or critical worker and would like your child/children to attend school during the first two weeks of term please book a place using the link at the bottom of this letter.

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| **Tuesday 5th January 2021** | Online learning for students in all year groups | Year 11 students who are sitting the BTEC Music exam on Thursday 7th January must attend as planned  | Key workers and the parents of vulnerable students can book places in school for their children |
| **Monday 11th January 2021** | Online learning for all students in Years 7 to 10 | Students in Year 11 will be in school for their mock examinations and normal face-to-face lessons | Key workers and the parents of vulnerable students can book places in school for their children |
| **Monday 18th January 2021** | All students return to school for normal lessons |   |   |

**What counts a Critical of Key Worker?**

The list of roles that are classed as Critical or Key Workers can be found by clicking [here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision).

**How will we maintain the curriculum and safety for those in school?**

Students will follow their usual curriculum.  Although they will be in a classroom they will be completing the same work as those who are at home working remotely and will have to do this as independently as possible.  Their teacher will be available to answer questions for the whole class during the lesson time, including any students in school.

The usual school behaviour policy as will all our Covid-19 expectations will remain in place and enforced. These expectations are more important than ever the new strains of the virus that have led to the implementation of Tier 4 in Tameside. When in school all students will remain in their year group bubble and will not be allowed to mix with other student bubbles. Please note that lunch time arrangements will remain the same for students as will our expectations regarding uniform.

The national guidance for self-isolation will continue to apply and we will adhere to this. If a student starts to display any symptoms of Corvid-19, parents / carers will be contacted and the student will be sent home to self-isolate.

One of our key safety measures is to ensure good ventilation in all areas of school.  Please send your child to school in a warm coat, if the rooms feel cold the teacher will instruct students that they may be worn. Please remember that we expect students to arrive at school with a face mask. If a student does not possess a face mask one will be provided for them.  Face masks must be worn at all times when students and staff are moving around the building or in social areas.

Lunch will be available to buy from the school canteen, however this may but be a reduced offer due to student numbers.  Students can of course bring a packed lunch with them and any student who is eligible for Free School Meals will be provided with one.

It is very important that students remember that Tameside is currently in Tier 4, government guidance states that it is essential that households should not be mixing, and that includes socialising on the way to school.

**How to book a place for your child**

Follow this [link](https://forms.gle/c8poXWKZcuDKRG8s7) and complete the form online.

This will help us to plan effectively for the first two weeks in January. If you find that you are called into work at short notice, please just get in touch and we will ensure there is a place and food available for your children.

I am glad we are able to continue to work together during these unprecedented times. Thank you for the work you are doing for our community.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Cumming

Deputy Headteacher