



Chantry Middle School
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BS/sp/janstart
Dear Parent/Carer

Staggered start to Spring term

As you may have seen in the news, the government has announced that secondary school students will return to school on a staggered basis in the first week of the spring term.

If you haven't heard this news, you can read the government's announcement [here](#).

- **Students in Year 5 and Year 6 will return as planned on Tuesday 5 January and will follow their normal timetable and school day.**
- **Students in Years 7 and 8 will return to school the week beginning Monday 11 January 2021.**

Key worker and vulnerable provision

As with the previous school closure, provision will be made for students in Years 7 and 8 who require a place in school as they are classed as vulnerable or from a key worker family. Where possible, the children of key workers should use alternative arrangements for childcare and take up the offer of a place in school as their last option. These students will work online (where possible) following the remote learning offer for all students in these year groups. If after reading this [guidance](#) you feel that you will require this childcare, please complete this [form](#) **by 16.00 on Tuesday 22 December 2020** to allow us to plan our provision.

Remote Learning Principles for students

- Students will follow a timetable for the period from Tuesday 5 January to Friday 8 January **remotely**.
- Work will be set on google classroom by 9am each morning with details of the work students should complete that day based on their timetable. We will send out details of the google classroom codes prior to Tuesday 5th January.
- Lessons provided will not be "live" lessons and will be planned in advance by teaching staff. We have to ensure there is a parity in provision for all students. Not all students have access to an appropriate device, internet, a microphone or speakers at the time the "live" lesson would take place. Therefore, our provision has been tailored to ensure that all students can access it.



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Rapid Testing for Schools

The government has also announced that school staff and students will have access to mass testing from January. Details can be found [here](#). The proposal states that staff will be tested weekly and students identified as close contacts of a positive case can be tested every day for seven days and remain in school if they are negative. This testing would be optional.

Schools are expected to administer these tests themselves or employ staff to do so and would need to provide facilities for this to be carried out. Details of the process can be found [here](#). We are looking at developing a Trust solution for this that can operate across schools as required and I will provide more details of how this will work in January once a plan has been established.

Free school meals

The Local Authority is extending the Christmas FSM voucher scheme to cover the first week in January.

I sincerely hope that you are all able to relax over the festive period. The school will endeavour to keep you updated as soon as we receive any further details from the government.

Best regards,

Bryan Stewart
Headteacher