



31 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Arrangements for the start of term in January

You may have seen in the media yesterday that the government has announced a change to the phased return for all secondary students in January. This guidance was different to that which had already been shared and as a school we only received the DFE email at 7pm last night, that clarified some of the ambiguity surrounding the briefing. This new guidance has posed many questions and we are doing our best to work through these and resolve the issues this new guidance presents. Today the Leadership team will meet to formalise the plans for the coming weeks and act on the guidance received so far, if we move to a contingency area these plans may change again.

Below is a summary of how this will work.

From 4 January 2021, our school will be open to the following students from 9am to 3pm:

- Critical worker and vulnerable students
- Any student who is due to sit an exam during the period 4-11 January 2021 – the student will be expected to attend for the exam only

Please note that the school buses will not be running and there will be no catering provision during the w/c 4th January.

From 11 January 2021 our school will open to the following Year groups in addition to the students above:

- Year 11 and 13
- Any student who is due to sit an exam during the period 11-18 January 2021 – the student will be expected to attend for the exam only

From 18 January:

- All students back on site for face to face lessons

Critical workers and vulnerable students that attend the academy during the first two weeks of term will be given access to a computer so they can attend their remote learning classes in line with their timetable along with their peer group. Please ensure that your child has some suitable headphones to access this provision. Where possible students should complete their remote learning from home so that numbers on site are kept to a minimum, given all we know about the rising number of cases and the high transmission rates of the new strain within secondary age students.

In order for us to plan for our critical worker and vulnerable student provision please complete the survey on the link below if your child / children fall into the critical worker or vulnerable categories above.

[Critical Worker Survey](#)

If you have already completed a critical worker survey in the past thank you. This additional survey will identify which students we can expect each day. Please could this be done by Saturday 2nd January, this will allow us to have everything in place for the start of the new term.

Remote learning will be provided for all other year groups from 4 January, which will be delivered during the normal school day. All students will receive live lessons and tutorial time via the Google Platform, the lessons and tutorial time will be in line with their normal timetable so they will have access to all of their normal lessons.

From the 18 January 2021, all other year groups (years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12) will return to the academy for face-to-face teaching.

During this period of remote learning those students who are in receipt of Free School Meals will be provided with a voucher, please contact the school directly should you have any further questions about this. Should you have any difficulties accessing remote provision please contact the school directly.

Finally I am sure you will have seen the discussion and talk around rapid testing in schools, this is currently being planned for. Next week we will be back in contact with further information in regards to this measure that is being put in place as additional mitigation to keep our community as safe as possible.

I do feel obliged to highlight that as a school we will only receive training for mass testing on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th January via an online webinar, as yet we have been given no additional resources to implement this testing and the news of army support has now been reduced to a phone line and a zoom meeting.

There will be no additional personnel on the ground to support in what is a massive challenge for our team, whilst also being expected to deliver online lessons. We will do our best to meet this challenge head on to fight the transmission of the virus but I would ask for your patience and understanding in regards to getting this testing in place. We do not have all the answers yet, but in time we will have a clear and coherent plan and this will be communicated to you all.

We will continue to update you during the term as needed. In the meantime, we wish you a safe and enjoyable New Year, and look forward to welcoming back our students in the coming weeks.

Yours faithfully,



Mr Will Teece
Headteacher