



4 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am sure many of you will have been watching the Prime Minister's announcement tonight and the new restrictions that will be coming into force. For those that may not know:

- We will now be in full lockdown as of tomorrow. This means that all education will move towards remote provision from tomorrow.
- This lockdown period is set to be in place until February half term.
- All examinations have also now been cancelled and more information will come in due course. I know this will cause significant distress and concern to many of our students. Please be assured we will do all we can to support students at this time and make sure they are in a strong position to progress. We will update students when more is known.
- The school will remain open to all children who are either vulnerable or those of critical workers. We emailed a survey out last week asking parents to identify if this provision was required. We will send weekly forms for parents to complete to identify when and if children will be in school each week.

This clearly is not the news any of us wanted, nor the way we wished to start the New Year. That said I do believe that this is the right course of action given the guidance from SAGE, the rising cases and the higher transmission rates of the new strain of COVID 19.

We will do all that we can to ensure students receive a high quality online provision in the coming weeks and will communicate frequently with all our stakeholders. We have learnt from past experience and will be implementing more live content but we also know that engagement levels can be varied too. Please could I ask that parents/carers support us in supporting your children and ensure they follow their timetables, access Google Classrooms and engage with what is offered as best as they can. I am acutely aware of the challenges this places on your children but also on you as parents, this is not an easy situation we find ourselves in. That said I am determined to do all we can to support you and your children. I will look to see how I can engage with parents on a regular basis to gather your feedback.

Staff have already produced a short how to guide that can be found here to support in the short term:

<https://sway.office.com/06vDqZilwC9GYX0o?ref=email>

Our own staff may also now face childcare issues with wrap around care etc, as such I will be meeting with team leaders tomorrow to ensure that any disruption caused by this announcement is kept to a

minimum, but would ask that you bare with us tomorrow if there are any gaps particularly at the start or end of the day to allow drop offs and pickups of their children. As you can imagine we had been planning for mass testing and full reopening to all years; this new plan is very different and as such will require time to get in place to the standard we want and you would expect. We may need to review our model of delivery but any changes will be communicated with you as soon as possible.

I'm sure you will have many questions, please feel free to ask them. I will always do my best to respond promptly.

It is now even more important to dig deep, pull together as a community and ensure our students, your children, get the best deal possible at this challenging time. We will do all we can to support you and our community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Teece', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Will Teece  
Headteacher