



# MURRAY PARK SCHOOL

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30<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: URGENT UPDATE keyworker/vulnerable family children to return on 4<sup>th</sup> January if required; Year 11 return on 11<sup>th</sup> January; Year 7, 8, 9, 10 return on 18<sup>th</sup> January.**

I trust you have had a lovely Christmas break and have stayed safe. You may be aware that there has been much media speculation about a change to the start of the Spring Term dates. The government today announced the following change to that previously published: keyworker/vulnerable family children should return on 4<sup>th</sup> January if required; Year 11 return on 11<sup>th</sup> January; Year 7, 8, 9, 10 return on 18<sup>th</sup> January.

The reason for this is the recent dramatic rise of COVID-19 and indeed the rise of the new coronavirus variant which has swept across the South East and is beginning to affect the rest of the country. The government would like all students to be tested and they understand we need time to get the systems in place to ensure this happens in a safe and supportive manner.

## COVID Testing

We will begin Covid testing, at the government's request, from the 11<sup>th</sup> January. Further information will be made available next week: no test will be administered without the consent of a parent/carer. A letter with the exact procedure will be sent to you, so you can make an informed decision about whether you want your child testing in school. We will give you time to discuss as a family and complete the form if you are OK to go ahead. We know this will be an emotional time and we are here to support you and your child/ren.

## On-line Learning

Year 11 students will be taught live lessons from 4<sup>th</sup> January, for the majority of subjects, through the Microsoft Teams platform in their class pages. Students will follow their usual school timetable which can be found in their planner or on Go4Schools. Any occasion a live lesson is not possible, students will be provided with resources from which to complete work.

Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will have materials available on-line, in their class pages on Teams, for them to work through from the w/b 4<sup>th</sup> January. We hope to offer live lessons from the 11<sup>th</sup> January for most subjects. Again, they will follow their usual timetable which can be found in their planner or on Go4Schools. This will help to structure their day.

## Device Access

If you do not have a device such as a laptop or tablet in your household suitable for accessing Microsoft Teams please email the senior team on [slt@murraypark.derby.sch.uk](mailto:slt@murraypark.derby.sch.uk) and we will endeavour to provide one, where our stocks allow.

## Year 11 Mock Exams

Due to the date changes, Year 11 mock exam week will move to the w/b 18<sup>th</sup> January. More information will be made available when Year return on 11<sup>th</sup> January.



### **Vulnerable and Keyworker Student School**

We are able to offer a vulnerable and keyworker school, in a similar way to the lockdown earlier in the year, for children of parents who are unable to have them at home for the week. Please see the government approved list of keyworker job roles: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>. Please email [slt@murraypark.derby.sch.uk](mailto:slt@murraypark.derby.sch.uk) if you would like to secure a space, so we can ensure we have the correct staffing in place.

### **Free School Meals**

All parents/carers of students who are in receipt of free school meals, will receive a voucher on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January to cover the equivalent lunches for the week. Years 7-10 will also receive vouchers for the w/b 11<sup>th</sup> January. Please let us know if there are any issues with this.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in these unprecedented times. Have a great New Year celebration in your home.

Yours faithfully



Mrs Caley  
Headteacher