



Duke's Secondary School

Josephine Butler Campus, Academy Road
Ashington, Northumberland NE63 9FZ
Telephone: 01670 816111 admin.dss@dukes.ncea.org.uk

Principal: Mr R Atkinson

18th December 2020

Staggered opening times in January for secondary schools

Dear Parents and Carers

I am sorry to be contacting you all on the first day of the Christmas holidays, but you may have heard the announcement from the Government yesterday afternoon regarding a staggered start to the new term for secondary school students.

The Government has decided that in order to minimize the risk of spreading Covid-19 following the Christmas break, they wish to reduce the number of children in secondary schools and colleges for the first full week of term in January. They have determined that the only children that should be in schools for the first week of term are those students from year groups **11 & 13, children of critical workers** and **vulnerable children**. We are therefore implementing the following strategy for the first week back in January.

- The 4th of January has already been given over to a teacher development day, so **no students will attend school on the 4th January**
- The school will only open to students from year groups **11 & 13, children of critical workers** and **vulnerable children** on 5th January for the rest of the week
- Students in **year 12 who have an exam in January** should attend school as well
- All other students in **years; 7, 8, 9, 10, & 12 should not attend school**, and will receive remote education via their Google classrooms from 5th January to 8th January
- Students working remotely should try to follow their usual school timetable on those days

We will be in contact with critical worker parents/carers and those parents/carers of vulnerable children on Monday 4th January to confirm whether you would like your children in school.

Many thanks for your understanding and apologies for the late notice, but we only received confirmation of this late yesterday afternoon. I hope everyone has a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year, and we look forward to welcoming the students back in January.

Yours Sincerely



Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust

Northumberland Church of England Academy Trust is a company limited by
Guarantee registered in England and Wales with Company No: 6653439



Mr. R S Atkinson, Principal, Dukes Secondary school