



31st December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Yesterday, the government announced their plans for the return of schools in January 2021. With case rates rising across the country, the government have pushed back the staggered return for secondary schools by one week. The intention of this is to provide more time for Secondary schools to implement mass testing, which will help find asymptomatic cases and break chains of transmission, making it as safe as possible to return to face-to-face education. This therefore means that Years 11,12 and 13 will not return to school as planned on the 5th January.

All year groups will remain at home and access online lessons for next week.

Vocational exams scheduled for the first week of January will go ahead as planned and students should come into school to sit these exams.

Key worker/vulnerable student provision

If you are a Key worker or your child is considered vulnerable, your child will be able to come into school to access online lessons from Tuesday 5th January. If you fall into this category and wish for your child to come into school, please complete [this form](#) by 3rd January 2021.

Return to school

At this moment in time, it is expected that:

- Year 11 and 13 will return to school on Monday 11th January 2021, however as planned Year 11 will be on study leave and will only attend school as per their individualised exam timetable.
- Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will return to school on Monday 18th January.

Remote Learning

From Tuesday 5th January, all students will be expected to access live online lessons via Microsoft Teams, during their normal timetabled lessons, and work will be set through a combination of Teams and SMHW. Guidance on accessing lessons and remote learning can be found on the [Remote Learning page](#) of our school website.

If your child does not have appropriate IT equipment, beyond a mobile phone, to access remote learning, we may be able to support with this. Please complete [this form](#) asap and we will be in contact.

Mass testing and volunteers

During the second week of term, beginning on 11th January, we are being asked to start a programme of testing, prioritising all staff and students in examination year cohorts. Next week we will provide more information on mass testing including consent forms.

In the meantime, to set up the testing quickly and effectively we are asking for volunteers to help us. If you or a member of your wider family can volunteer to help it would be greatly appreciated, even if it is for a few hours a week.

Staff and students will self-administer the test, therefore clinical experience is not necessary to volunteer, we are looking for help with providing guidance, support, processing tests, recording results and general administration. Full training will be provided as will appropriate PPE. If you feel you could help us or would like to find out more, please complete [this form](#) by Tuesday 4th January 2021.

Finally, we would like to wish you a Happy New Year and look forward to all of our students returning safely to school as soon as possible.

Mr T Fitzpatrick
Executive Headteacher

Mr M Roberts
Head of School

Achieving Excellence Together

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