

2<sup>nd</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you have had a safe and enjoyable Christmas holiday.

You will probably have seen or read the news stories this week about schools and colleges being asked to implement a phased start to the spring term and being asked to set up a Covid testing programme for students and staff.

We will follow the government guidance on how to phase the start of term, which is intended to ensure effective education can continue, but also reduce the spread of the virus as pupils and staff return after Christmas. This means the following:

### **Phased start to term**

**From the 5th January** vulnerable children and children of critical workers can attend school. All other students should remain at home and our teachers will set remote learning in line with our procedures. Vocational exams for Year 11 planned for this week will still go ahead and we will be in touch with parents about this. We will be making arrangements for students who are entitled to free school meals.

We have an existing list of vulnerable students and children of critical workers in Years 8-11 who came into school during the original lockdown. If your child was on this list we will be contacting you by phone on Monday to see if you want your child to attend on Tuesday and to let you know the arrangements for this. If your child is in Year 7 and they are vulnerable or you are a critical worker then please contact the school office from 9am. If you are unsure about whether or not your child falls into one of these categories, please check the government guidelines found here:

[Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

**From the 11th January**, vulnerable children and children of critical workers should attend school. **Year 11 students should also attend school** as normal. All other students should remain at home and our teachers will set remote learning in line with our procedures.

**From the 18<sup>th</sup> January** all students should return to school.

*Transforming Lives*

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This is the current government guidance, and we will obviously let you know if there are any changes to this and continue to send you updates on the app about return dates for students.

### **Mass testing programme**

Setting up this programme in schools is an incredibly complex operation. We have been sent some information about how it should work already, but more detailed guidance will be released to us on the 4<sup>th</sup> January.

We will let you know more about our plans as soon as we can. In the meantime, from the start of next term, we will continue to implement the safety measures we have been using in the autumn term.

Thank you for your patience and continued support. We hope you and your family continue to remain safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

Chris Bailey and Chris Heal  
Acting Principals

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