

31 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As promised, I am writing to you again today to update you on plans for the return to school after the Christmas holidays. Since school finished on 17 December, a great deal has changed given the rising positive cases of Covid 19 and the new strain of the virus. As I am sure you are now aware from Gavin Williamson's announcement in Parliament yesterday, the arrangements for the return to school in January has now changed for ALL secondary schools in England. The logistics of changing plans at this stage are challenging for us all and I appreciate that this is also the case for parents and carers. However, it is important that we comply with the instructions laid out by the Department for Education and so the start of the new term will now be as follows:

Monday 4 January: INSET Day – no students in school

Tuesday 5 January: Years 11 & 13 students taught remotely via live "Teams" lessons

Year 7 to 10 & Year 12 students will access remote learning for their lessons. All assignments will be placed on Show My Homework to ensure parents/carers have the ability to view work via the website. Please see full support guide [here](#)

Children of critical workers and vulnerable children in school, **all consenting students will be tested upon return.**

Monday 11 January – Year 11 & 13 students in school, **all consenting students will be tested upon return**

Year 7 to 10 & Year 12 students will access remote learning for their lessons. All assignments will be placed on Show My Homework to ensure parents/carers have the ability to view work via the website. Please see full support guide [here](#)

Children of critical workers and vulnerable children in school **all consenting students will be tested.**

Monday 18 January - All year groups return to school, **all consenting students tested upon return.**

All students who will be taking external examinations will be required to attend the Academy on that day. Arrangements will be sent to all in a separate communication.

Children who fall into the vulnerable category

The government has updated its guidance about which groups of people are considered to be vulnerable and can be accessed [here](#). **Children who fall into the vulnerable category will receive an email separately inviting them to sign up for this provision. However, please feel free to fill in the survey which will follow this communication.**

Principal: Mr Mark Avoth

The Bourne Academy, Hadow Road, Bournemouth, BH10 5HS | Tel. 01202 528554 | admin@thebourneacademy.com

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During these days staff will be undergoing training for the delivery of Covid-19 tests, teaching Year 11-13 students either online or on-site, and delivering online learning to students at home – it will be a very busy time. **Please only send your child into school if they cannot be supervised or safely left alone at home.**

We plan to test your child for Covid-19 upon return to school using the lateral flow testing devices. This is voluntary and relies upon your consent. However, in order to keep both the staff and other students in our school community safe in the face of rising numbers of the virus, if you wish for us to provide for your child on the school site from Tuesday 5 January, please can I urge you to consent to testing.

Children of critical workers

The government has updated its guidance about which groups of people are considered to be critical workers and can be accessed [here](#). If either parent or carer falls into one of these categories, and you would like your child to attend the Academy on any of the days from Tuesday 5 January to Friday 15 January, please complete the survey which will follow this communication. Please do this no later than midnight on Sunday 3 January.

During these days staff will be undergoing training for the delivery of Covid-19 tests, teaching Year 11-13 students either online or on-site, and delivering online learning to students at home – it will be a very busy time. **Please only send your child into school if they cannot be supervised or safely left alone at home.**

We plan to test your child for Covid-19 upon return to school using the lateral flow testing devices. This is voluntary and relies upon your consent. However, in order to keep both the staff and other students in our school community safe in the face of rising numbers of the virus, if you wish for us to provide for your child on the school site from Tuesday 5 January, please can I urge you to consent to testing.

Student Remote Learning

Students will continue their learning remotely via Microsoft Teams or Show My Homework. Year 11 & Year 13 students will need access to a device with Microsoft Teams on it (e.g. computer / laptop/ tablet / smartphone). All other students will use Show My Homework to access their remote learning.

All students will follow their usual academy timetable and should be present on Microsoft Teams or Show My Homework during these times. Teachers will be available to answer queries on Show My Homework via the chat facility. A full support guide is available [here](#).

Free School Meals (FSM)

If your child is eligible for FSM then we will contact you in a separate communication as to how you can collect a food parcel. If your child is eligible for FSM and is accessing our critical worker or vulnerable children provision, then a Free School Meal will be provided for them while at the Academy.

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Illness and absence

If your child is unwell, even when learning from home remotely, please report absence in the normal way by contacting the school. If your child is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19, it is critical that they do not attend school. Instead, please book a COVID-19 test at one of the regional testing centres. Similarly, if any household member is exhibiting any symptoms of COVID-19, it is vital that your child does not attend school until the household member has a confirmed negative test result. We will continue to update you with information as it emerges – this is a rapidly moving situation and there may well be further changes and updates in the coming days as we respond to national decisions.

Unfortunately, this is the first of a number of communications you will receive from the Academy today. **Please ensure you check your emails regularly and only fill out surveys if the letter refers to you specifically.** To clarify, there will be survey responses required for critical workers and vulnerable children who wish to access our provision next week (including consent for testing) as well as information on accessing Free School Meals.

All other groups, including those who have external examinations, will receive further communications (including testing consent) from Monday 4 January.

Thank you for your support as always. Wishing you and your families a very Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Avoth
Principal

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