

18 December 2020

Dear Parents /Carers,

I would like to thank you for the exceptional support that you have provided to The Bourne Academy through the challenges we have seen in 2020.

I am sure that many of you will have heard yesterday's surprise announcement that the government has decided to stagger the return of secondary school students after the Christmas holidays. It has also been announced that children and staff will receive lateral flow COVID tests on their return.

The introduction of mass testing in schools, will make it easier to identify members of our community who are asymptomatic carriers of COVID-19. Our understanding is that testing is not mandatory but is highly recommended. Whilst we welcome this initiative, we are cautious as not many details have been published. However, what is clear is that mass testing in the Academy will almost inevitably lead to a higher number of positive test results in our community. That said, in time, it should help to ensure more students and more staff can attend school more regularly. Our understanding is that further information will be provided to schools and colleges in the days ahead on how the tests are to be administered. So close to the end of term, I regret we will not be able to provide additional information.

However, I am able to clarify our arrangements for our staggered start;

- Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 will return to the Academy for face-to-face teaching on Tuesday 5 January. They will have lessons as normal and all other arrangements around start times, uniform, line ups and behaviour expectations remain the same
- **Year 7 to Year 10 students will be provided online/remote lessons using Show my Homework and Oak National Academy lessons.** Face-to-face teaching will commence for these year groups on Monday 11 January. Lessons as normal and all other arrangements around start times, uniform, line ups and behaviour expectations remain the same
- Parents/Carers of vulnerable students will be contacted separately
- Students who have parents/carers who are Critical Workers will be provided spaces on an individual basis from Tuesday 5 January, but we ask that this only be for emergency provision. A room will be provided for computer access to the set work

I ask for your patience and support as the plan unfolds and request that you regularly monitor communication from the Academy as we embark on this logistically challenging task, that is unreasonable on the last day of term prior to the Christmas break. Please also monitor our website regularly. I am confident that, despite the massive challenges this last-minute announcement by Government has caused, we will be able to deliver the request.

In the meantime, I wish you a happy Christmas and I look forward to seeing you in 2021.

Kind regards
The Bourne Academy

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