

5th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carer,

Following the Prime Minister's address yesterday evening, I felt it important to send a holding letter to you all whilst we await further clarifications.

Previous communications outlined the staggered return of students to the Academy. However, the National Lockdown means that all students will now receive online, remote learning until February half-term.

Teachers have already planned online / remote lessons until Friday 15 January. Therefore, these will continue as follows:

Tuesday 5 January to Friday 15 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 their return and when the facility is up and running**

Monday 18 January to Friday 12 February:

- Online/remote learning will be reviewed and will be communicated to parents and carers prior to this start date.

All lessons will run in accordance with our normal timetable. Currently tutor sessions will not be running but this may be reviewed in due course.

Please be aware that, as a result of last night's announcement, a number of our staff are experiencing childcare issues today, so our remote learning offer may not be as robust as planned, please bear with us whilst staff liaise with their children's schools and childcare providers. As we are facing an extended period of remote learning, you will note from above, we will review our practice and processes and I will write to you, as soon as possible, to confirm what arrangements will be in place for online/remote learning from Monday 18 January to Friday 12 February.

The Academy is now only open to children of critical workers and vulnerable students. These students will be engaging with the remote learning set for all students but will do so within the Academy.

I am sure that you have many questions, especially related to GCSEs, A Levels, and vocational qualifications. Some students in Year 11, 12 and 13 are due to sit vocational examinations, in January. We can confirm that these will continue and students will receive an additional communication

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regarding this. There is the wider picture concerning the summer exam series and we are urgently seeking clarification on how they will be affected. Please be assured that as soon as we have more information, we will communicate this to you. Needless to say, it is vital that if you have a child in an examination year group, they continue to engage with the work set by their teachers.

Further guidance is due on children eligible for free school meals. However, for the time being, we will continue to provide food parcels, as mentioned in my previous correspondence.

I think it is also important to note that the announcement yesterday clearly indicated that everyone should work from home if at all possible. This includes Academy staff. Therefore, we have spent today considering how we will meet the challenges of:

- Understanding any staffing complexities created by a lack of critical worker provision so that we can ensure all students move to high quality remote learning as soon as possible
- Developing staffing rotas for our children of critical workers and vulnerable children provision. We will need to take into account some staff working entirely from home as they are clinically extremely vulnerable and some staff who will need to come into school to supervise our onsite provision on specific or most days
- Ensuring that all students have the necessary devices and connectivity to ensure they can access remote learning for an extended period

As a school, we are better prepared to tackle the challenges that lay ahead than we were in March. However, please be assured that I will continue to update you as and when we have Government clarification on pertinent issues that are currently unclear, please continue to monitor your emails for these updates.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Avoth
Principal

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