*From ASCL – some useful links to Gov resources*

***Start of term announcement***  
   
Yesterday the Secretary of State [announced](https://ascl.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dae6fbf66d6135a8a21b3627d&id=e8c63c938d&e=2290b4af0f) some changes to the start of the spring term, applying a version of the previously published [contingency framework for education and childcare settings](https://ascl.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dae6fbf66d6135a8a21b3627d&id=7f00eeb5e9&e=2290b4af0f).  
   
This was followed up by the publication of some [contingency framework implementation guidance](https://ascl.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dae6fbf66d6135a8a21b3627d&id=4b53a5771d&e=2290b4af0f), and an email to all schools and colleges last night.  
   
The key points from these documents and messages are as follows:   
   
*Early years settings*

* Early years settings (including nurseries and childminders) should continue to allow all children/pupils to attend as normal.
* School-based nurseries in primary schools have discretion to follow arrangements for the primary school.
* Attendance at early years and childcare settings is not compulsory.

*Primary schools*

* Most should open as planned in the week beginning 4 January.
* The exceptions are those listed in Annex A of the [contingency framework implementation guidance](https://ascl.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dae6fbf66d6135a8a21b3627d&id=e8b40f91c5&e=2290b4af0f). Primary schools in these areas should only open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Remote learning should be provided for all other pupils. Further information for schools in these areas is available in the implementation guidance.
* There is no specified date for when primary schools in these areas will be able to open to more children. This will be reviewed by 18 January.
* Mass testing for primary staff will “follow later in January”.

*Middle schools*

* Most should open as planned in the week beginning 4 January.
* The exceptions are those listed in Annex A of the [contingency framework implementation guidance](https://ascl.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dae6fbf66d6135a8a21b3627d&id=f60cefcceb&e=2290b4af0f). For Years 5 and 6, middle schools in these areas should only open to vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Remote learning should be provided for all other pupils. For Years 7 and 8, they should follow the advice for secondary schools and colleges below. Further information for schools in these areas is available in the implementation guidance.

*Special schools*

* Special schools should continue to allow all pupils to attend full-time.
* Special post-16 settings should allow students to continue to attend as per their usual timetable.
* Greater flexibility on face-to-face attendance of pupils and students in the first week of term is available to individual special schools, to “enable them to appropriately mobilise their mass testing programme”.
* Further information is available in the [contingency framework implementation guidance](https://ascl.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dae6fbf66d6135a8a21b3627d&id=461c39717f&e=2290b4af0f).

*Alternative provision*

* All AP settings should continue to allow all pupils to attend full-time.
* Further information is available in the [contingency framework implementation guidance](https://ascl.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dae6fbf66d6135a8a21b3627d&id=2a1154b135&e=2290b4af0f).

*Secondary schools and colleges*

* The previously announced staggered start has been revised to “allow more time so that every school and college is able to fully roll out mass testing of all pupils and students”.
* In the week beginning 4 January:
  + Only vulnerable children and children of key workers should be on site.
  + Remote education should be provided for exam year groups and “to all other years as resources permit”.
  + Any scheduled vocational exams should go ahead as planned.
  + Schools and colleges “will prepare to test as many staff and students as possible”.
* In the week beginning 11 January:
  + Vulnerable children, children of key workers and students in exam years should be on site.
  + Remote education should be provided for all other students.
  + Any scheduled vocational exams should go ahead as planned.
  + Testing “will begin in earnest”, prioritising staff, students on site and exam cohorts.
* In the week beginning 18 January:
  + All students should be on site (N.B. In some government messaging there appears to be a suggestion that secondary schools and colleges in the areas in which the contingency framework is being applied may not be able to bring back all students this week. We are seeking urgent clarification on this.)
  + Any scheduled vocational exams should go ahead as planned.

***Mass testing***  
   
The government has also provided more information on the mass testing programme, as follows:  
   
*Delivery of tests and equipment*  
All schools and colleges with secondary-age pupils, including independent schools, special schools, alternative provision, sixth forms and FE colleges, will receive an initial delivery of lateral flow device test kits on Monday 4 January. You will need to ensure that someone is onsite from 8am on this day to receive the delivery. Deliveries will include up to 1000 testing kits, PCR tests and PPE.  
   
Additional supplies will be delivered over 4, 5 and 6 January. You may therefore receive two deliveries on Monday 4 January.  
   
*Guidance on implementing the programme*  
The government has created a [schools and colleges document sharing platform](https://ascl.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dae6fbf66d6135a8a21b3627d&id=df9d1df2a8&e=2290b4af0f)for asymptomatic testing. This includes the following resources:

* a ‘how to’ guide, with details on how to set up test sites, conduct tests and safely dispose of waste
* a training guide, with information on identifying the roles and responsibilities involved, the staffing and resource model, and the training requirements for the various roles
* a workforce planning tool
* competency checklists for the different roles
* a risk assessment template
* a quality assurance plan and checklist

*Team leader registration*  
Schools and colleges are being asked to register at least one team leader, responsible for the overall operations at the test site, using this [registration form](https://ascl.us7.list-manage.com/track/click?u=dae6fbf66d6135a8a21b3627d&id=d49d8224cf&e=2290b4af0f).