

Dear Parent/Carer

Apologies for sending you two emails on New Year's Eve. I sincerely hope that you have all had a different, but good Christmas. I am delighted that we did not have to ask any students to have to isolate over the Christmas period - we would have hated to have had to deliver that message to any family!

I'm sure that you would all like to know what the series of recent announcements will mean for your child. The 4th -6th of January were already scheduled as training days at Balshaw's so, even without any of the current changes, school would not have started for any of our students until Thursday 7th. Having read and re-read the latest guidance, this is the position that we are in:

- Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will all return to school on Monday 18th January. Remote learning will begin online for these students on Monday 11th January.
- Year 11 will return to school on Monday 11th January.

The time before this will involve the preparation for implementing mass testing and to test all staff in the school.

To help us with planning we need to obtain consent from parents to supervise student self-administration of the test. Note that no child will be asked to conduct a lateral flow test without having received consent from parents. The details for testing will follow shortly after this email.

However, there are also formal examinations which will continue as planned.

Btec Vocational Examinations for Years 10 and 11 (Music and Cambridge National Sport)

The following formal examinations are set to take place

- 7th January Btec Music: Year 11 students only.
- 11th January Cambridge National Sport Year 10 and 11 students.

On these days we are asking students to do the following:

- Arrive at their normal gate at 8.40 to be met by members of SLT.

- Students will need to be in school uniform and wearing a mask and will be accompanied into school.
- The exams will start at 9.00am and will both last for one hour.
- After the exam and a short comfort break, the students will be accompanied off site and they are expected to go home to continue their studies online.
- In the recent Year 11 mocks our COVID safety measures worked really well and we anticipate the same for these exams.

This is all the information I want to include in this email. The second email you will receive has all of the information about the testing process.

Kind regards

Mr Steven Haycocks

HEADTEACHER
BALSHAW'S CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path. (Psalm 119, vs 105)