

Saturday January 2nd 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I write to update you in light of Government announcements in recent days. I am sorry the communication is so late but even after the Secretary of State's announcement on Wednesday there have been a number of changes regarding expectations.

Monday January 4th

This remains an additional INSET day allowing the school to continue planning for the demands of the next few weeks.

Tuesday January 5th – Friday 8th

- The only students in school are those with an EHCP, a social worker or who are children of critical workers who have requested a place. We will operate a normal school day and students will still be expected to maintain social distance and work in their year group bubbles. They should arrive at school through their normal year group entrance and will use their own year group yard and toilets. They will be supervised completing the same work as their peers at home and so it is very important that they bring in headphones – all students were given a set in September. Unless they are entitled to free school meals, they will need to bring a packed lunch. To the best of my knowledge there will still be school transport but if I find out more about this on Monday I will inform you. Students do not need to wear uniform but should have trainers as they will have PE at normal times.
- All other students in Years 7-11 will be taught remotely. Students will follow their normal timetable and should check their Synergy account for each lesson. It is really important that students keep up with their learning. We will be monitoring access to remote lessons and will communicate with parents/carers if it appears students are not engaging with learning. Remote learning is not the same as 'live' lessons but where learning is live staff will indicate that on synergy. Please do contact school if your child does not have access to a computer. Please remember Year 11 mock exams begin on Wednesday January 13th and so students should be preparing for these.
- We will make arrangements for those students who receive free school meals and who are at home. We have been informed we cannot use the Edenred voucher scheme so will inform you of arrangements on Monday or Tuesday.
- During this week we will begin to set up the mass testing process and the aim will be to send out information and consent forms on Wednesday 6th January. It is not compulsory for any child or member of staff to take part in the national testing programme in schools but is encouraged.
- I will keep you updated of any further developments

Monday January 11th – Friday 15th

Year 11: The Government's intention is that Year 11 will return to school on Monday January 11th. For those students for whom we have consent we will aim to do two lateral flow tests during this week, three days apart. Mock exams will also begin and there is public exam on Monday 11th for Health & Social Care students

- School will also be open for those students in Years 7-10 who have an EHCP, a social worker or are children of critical workers who have requested a place.
- All other students in Years 7-10 will continue to be taught remotely.

It is certainly the case that we continue to live in very uncertain and challenging times. As the virus is on the increase and we see hospital numbers and deaths rising I can only ask that you really emphasise with your children the need to follow all the social distancing rules, the importance of masks and frequent handwashing. While school is closed to most of them, they should be at home learning and not mixing with others outside.

With best wishes for this new year,

Andrew Waller

Headteacher