



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave · Garstang · Lancashire · PR3 1YE · Tel: 01995 603226 · Email:
info@garstangcommunityacademy.com

30th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I sincerely hope you had a safe and restful Christmas.

Further to my letter on December 18th, I thought it would be useful to reiterate and expand on the topics raised in that letter, and this has been further necessitated following today's announcement by the Education Secretary:

- Children returning on 4th January 2021 – Following today's announcement, only Vulnerable Children and those of Critical Workers from Years 7 to 11 will return to school on Monday 4th January, 2021:
 - o Vulnerable children – Vulnerable children are expected to attend school from 4/1/21 - Vulnerable children will access work on Synergy in the F-Block rooms, supervised by non-teaching staff, while teaching staff maintain the Remote Learning provision for Years 7 to 11. All children who we believe fall into this category have been contacted separately by Miss Royds and have been asked to contact us to confirm that children will be attending this provision.
On arrival at school, children should make their way to their usual before school zone, and then go directly to F block when the bell rings, where they will be directed to their allocated learning space.
 - o Children of Critical Workers (NHS staff, emergency services etc.) All Critical Workers who would like their children to access this provision should by now have informed us that this is the case. If you have not yet done so, please let us know ASAP (and by 5.00pm on Saturday 2/1/21 at the latest) using the slt@garstangcommunityacademy.com email address so that we can make appropriate arrangements.
On arrival at school, children should make their way to their usual before school zone, and then be taken to F block by duty staff when the bell rings, where they will be directed to their allocated learning space, where they will access work through Synergy, supervised by non-teaching staff, while teaching staff maintain the Remote Learning provision for Years 7 to 11.
- Children returning on 11th January 2021 - Following today's announcement, Year 11 children will return to school on Monday 11th January, 2021:
 - o Year 11 – As of this moment, we expect all of our Year 11 children to return on Monday 11/1/21. Year 11s should arrive as normal on this date and make their way to their usual before school zone. Normal lessons will be scheduled as per their timetables.
- Remote Learning from Monday 4th January:
 - o Remote Learning for all children will commence from Period 2 on Monday 4/1/21. Children should access their Remote Learning via Synergy, following their normal (January '21) timetable and submitting work as required using the submit button. If children are struggling with accessing their Remote Learning, please have a look at the training videos available on the Remote Learning tab on the school's website and then, if you are still experiencing difficulties, let us know as soon as possible by emailing slt@garstangcommunityacademy.com



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Our expectation generally is that Year 7 and 8 sessions should take between 30 and 40 minutes, while Year 9 to 11 sessions should be up to 50 minutes.

- The work on Synergy forms the lion's share of the Remote Learning provision, much of this will be recorded by teachers ('Loomed'.) However, we will look at the possibility of introducing a small number of live lessons/drop-ins towards the end of the week. I would ask parents to be mindful that live lessons are not straightforward to prepare and deliver, and likewise are not always straightforward to access due to the technological limitations many families experience.
- It is currently our expectation that all children in Years 7 to 10 will return to school 'as normal' on Monday 18th January at which time, our hope is that normal lessons will recommence which will be a natural continuation of the Remote Learning set during the previous week. It is really important that children engage fully with the Remote Learning work and understand that they will lose free time in order to catch work up, for instance after school, if they do not do so.

- Mass Testing:

- The Government have very roughly outlined plans for use of Lateral Flow testing in schools. We are endeavouring to make sense of what will be possible/desirable/useful and I will communicate further thoughts towards the end of the week commencing 4/1/21.

Clearly, there will continue to be much conjecture in the media regarding children's return to school, and further announcements would not come as a great surprise, but for now, I look forward to seeing some children (as outlined above) on Monday, and all other children staggered over the following two Mondays.

Very best wishes

Alasdair Ashcroft
Headteacher