

31st December 2020

Dear Parent /Carer,

As we indicated was a possibility in the letter before Christmas, there has been a change to government guidelines on the return to school of secondary aged students in 2021.

The Government issued new guidance yesterday for students of secondary school age. These affect secondary aged students at Armfield and Unity , and clearly also all our students at Aspire, Garstang and Montgomery.

In effect everything has been pushed back a week, I believe for 2 reasons. Firstly, the concern about the new variant of Covid, which seems to be spreading quicker and secondly to give secondary schools more chance to prepare for the mass testing system, that the Government is hoping will be introduced into secondary settings.

### In the week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> January :-

School will be open as normal only for the children of critical workers and vulnerable students, in a similar way that we were open for those students at the start of the pandemic. If you are a critical worker and your child requires a place then please use the link below to register for a place from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxgVWAwCX5QN\\_JPsCRvhRQ3V9OWwoQ\\_2Z4FiLnWR2xIKxczw/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfxgVWAwCX5QN_JPsCRvhRQ3V9OWwoQ_2Z4FiLnWR2xIKxczw/viewform?usp=sf_link)

Parents/carers of vulnerable students will be contacted by the school or other outside agencies before Monday. All vulnerable students or children of critical workers in school over the next two weeks will be supervised to complete the same remote learning work that students not in school will be working on at home. This will be organised through Google Classroom, Seneca and Hegarty Maths as usual. Year 11 will also be able to access Loom video introductions to lessons and an end of week GMeet with their teachers.

A reminder of the codes for Google classroom are given below:

Year 7:	btyg652	Year 8:	q6qlmrl
Year 9:	54vkjfv	Year 10:	qfiyeod
Year 11:	ngoochkd		

We will be trialing a registration system for students working remotely, which we hope to have up and running by the middle of the first week back. This was successful with Year 8 when they were working at home last term.

Registered Office: Armfield Academy 488 Lytham Road, Blackpool, FY4 1TL



## Year 11 external exams

Year 11 students entered for BTEC/Cambridge National exams on 7<sup>th</sup>, Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January should come to school at 8:20am on these days as these exams will go ahead and should be sat by all students entered

### **In the week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> January :-**

School will be open as normal for all Year 11 students, who will receive their usual face-to-face lessons. Provision will continue for children of critical workers and vulnerable students.

### **In the week beginning 18<sup>th</sup> January, all remaining students (Y7-10) will return to school.**

As mentioned above the Government has made these decisions for 2 reasons. The first is to help control the spread of the virus. The second reason, is to help schools plan for more regular testing of students and staff. We will clearly communicate thoroughly about this in the first week back. We will also contact families in the first week back about any Free School Meal provision we can offer whilst children are not in school over the first two weeks of term.

Senior leaders at our schools will begin to plan for those arrangements from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January and we will be in touch with you as soon as possible. Due to our 5 secondary settings being different, we cannot guarantee these arrangements for testing will all start at the same time, although our leaders will do their best in challenging circumstances.

Can we once again apologise for the late notice of this announcement, but we are responding as quickly as we can to Government announcements.

On that subject we once again acknowledge your patience and support with this unprecedented situation. We recognise that some of you will experience inconvenience, but we have looked to follow Government guidance to help control the spreads of the virus and be as safe as possible. We all want all our students in schools as much as possible, however we have had to follow the Government guidance.

**Of course, if guidance changes, then we will be in touch again. You might also wish to keep an eye on the school website.**

Thanks again for working in partnership with all our schools. On a final more positive note, at least we have the vaccine now being used in the area, which does give us some hope for the future.



FCAT Interim Director of Education



Headteacher of Montgomery Academy