



PARENT BULLETIN

4 Jan - 8 Jan 2021: Week 1



Headteacher's Message

Dear parents and carers,

This past week or so have been our most difficult since we reopened in September. Having to send the year 11s home, then the year 10s, and then finally the year 7s was necessary in order to prevent further spread of the virus and keep school open at this crucial time of year. Thank you so much for your support and lovely messages into school.

You may have heard in the news about schools conducting the rapid tests in the new year. The next page of this bulletin contains information taken directly from the government website. Please take a few minutes to read it, so you are aware of the process we will follow in January. At this moment, however, I have no further information and we have not received any of the kits or training materials although much has been leaked and reported in the news. Once I know more, I shall update you.

STAGGERED START TO THE TERM IN JANUARY

It is being reported in the news - although the Education Secretary is yet to confirm this - that we shall have a staggered start for years 7 - 11 when we reopen in January. I shall let you know during the holidays about our plans, once the DfE has confirmed them with us.

Reminder of message sent via Edulink on Wednesday - please note this does not apply when you have to take a regular test as part of your job (eg NHS or care home workers)

We have been made aware of two pupils being sent to school on Monday and Tuesday when they or someone they live with are waiting for a Covid test result.

In such circumstances, YOUR CHILD MUST NOT ATTEND SCHOOL until you receive a negative test result.

I cannot stress enough that we all have a responsibility to keep each other safe and not risk the health and safety of everyone in our community.

The information below is copied from <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

“Stay at home if you have symptoms

If you're getting a test because you have symptoms, you and anyone you live with must [self-isolate](#) until you get your result. This also applies to anyone in your support bubble (where someone who lives alone - or just with their children - can meet people from 1 other household). You must also self-isolate if you cannot get a test.”

Finally, I would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and all the best for the New Year!

Kind regards,

Mr Mitchell
Headteacher

Coronavirus (COVID-19) asymptomatic testing in schools

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges>

To safeguard the health of the teaching workforce and keep as many staff and pupils in school and college as possible, we will be making rapid-result coronavirus (COVID-19) tests available to schools and colleges in the new year. This will help identify asymptomatic cases - which make up a third of all cases - limiting the spread of the virus.

Testing, along with other infection prevention and control measures such as social distancing, can ensure pupils are given the best chance of face to face education. With a phased approach beginning in January, testing will be made available to all members of staff and all pupils and students in schools and colleges.

Approach

From January, rapid-result tests will be provided to schools and colleges, starting with secondary schools and FE colleges, including special schools and alternative provision:

- for the school and college workforce to conduct weekly testing - this will help identify those who are carrying the virus without displaying symptoms, reducing the risk of transmission
- for students and pupils as well as the school and college workforce to conduct daily testing for those identified as close contacts of workforce colleagues, students or pupils that have tested positive - this ensures that they do not need to isolate and are able to continue to benefit from high quality, face to face education

For every group, testing is voluntary, but those who are eligible for tests are strongly encouraged to participate to reduce the risk of transmission within schools and colleges.

In line with routine infection control practice, close contacts who decide not to be tested daily will need to self-isolate in line with [guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#).

Conducting testing in schools and colleges

Recent pilots have shown how rapid testing can be used effectively and have positive impacts in schools and colleges. The lateral flow tests that will be provided to schools and colleges produce a result in 30 minutes and do not require a laboratory to process.

From the beginning of January, schools and colleges will be provided with testing kits including personal protective equipment (PPE). They will be provided with comprehensive guidance and training materials and support to introduce a testing programme that works for staff, students and pupils. Schools and colleges should make clear to staff and pupils that a negative test result does not remove the risk of transmission. In some cases, someone who has tested negative may still have the undetected disease and be infectious. It is therefore essential that everyone continues to follow good hygiene and observe social distancing measures whether or not they have been tested.

Anyone who is showing symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) who has a negative result from a rapid test will be required to self-isolate until the result from a lab-based polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test is known.

Year 7 Messages

Your child's latest BfL report will be issued on Thursday, 7th January

Just a very quick message to let you know that upon return to school in January all pupils in Year 7 and Year 9 will be studying topics in maths which require the use of a protractor and a pair of compasses. This equipment will be used throughout most of the half term leading up to February. We do always recommend that pupils are equipped for these lessons as learning how to use your own equipment properly can be crucial for some topics. In the current climate it is obviously even more important pupils are equipped to avoid any unnecessary sharing of equipment. With this in mind please can I ask parents to ensure that pupils are fully equipped after the Christmas break. If pupils do not currently have a maths set I'm sure they'd be delighted to find this as a stocking filler on Christmas morning!! Wishing you all a happy relaxing and safe Christmas break Miss Johnson

Year 8 Messages

Your child's latest BfL report will be issued on Thursday, 7th January

Year 9 Messages

See Year 7 message above regarding maths equipment

In the second week back after the Christmas break, Year 9 will receive their first progress report of the academic year and have their review day. The report will give parents and carers an indication of the progress being made in all their subjects over the first term.

Year 10 Messages

In the second week back after the Christmas break, Year 10 will receive their first WaG (Working at Grade) report of the academic year and have their review day. The report will be made available to parents/carers through the app on the same day.

Please note that Year 10 have another 16 months before their final exams. WaGs are the grades that your child has produced at the key assessment points in their subjects during the first term of this academic year and are not overall predictions of final GCSE outcomes. It is possible that WaGs will vary depending on the effort, application and outcomes in each reporting period.

Year 11 Messages

Tuesday 5th January is Review Day, when your child's latest WaG report will be issued.

See next page for more messages.

Year 11 Messages

In the first week back after the Christmas break, Year 11 will receive their second WaG (Working at Grade) Report of the academic year and have their review day. The report will be made available to parents/carers through the app on the same day.

Please note that the WaGs reported are a clear indication of how your child is working and the grades produced at the Key Assessment Points during the reporting period (15/10/20 - 10/12/20) and are not overall predictions. It is possible that WaGs will vary depending on the effort, application and outcomes in each reporting period.

The Parklands mock exams will not take place in January as we feel the regular assessment points throughout the year will give us a better indication of your child's progress.

Please encourage your child to fully engage with all their school work in class, at home and all ongoing assessment pieces. There has never been a time when regular and consistent effort has been more important- it still might end up being the basis on which your child is awarded grades

On our return, in the new year, we will be rolling out our **Extended Elevate Programme**. We will be offering targeted support, subject catch-up and enhancement, tutoring and an extended day. The aim is to ensure all our students have not been disadvantaged by the disruptions and are given every opportunity to reach their full potential. Details of the programme will follow in the new year.

We aim to keep our students, parents and carers as informed as possible with news and developments related to exams. Up to now, the DfE are stating that summer exams will go ahead but there will be a number of changes including more generous grading, advance notice of some topics and exam aids being permitted. Click on the link [here](#) for the DfE's full press release. You can also follow the link [here](#) to take you to the recent Year 11 assembly we held giving updates for our students.

<https://indigo.careers/career-of-the-month-animato/>

Career of the month on Indigo is Animator. Here Anika from Cloth Cat Animation tells you all about how she got her job, what qualifications she needed and some hints and tips for anyone interested in animation as a career.

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CLOTH CAT ANIMATION

<https://www.getmyfirstjob.co.uk/>

This is a great website, packed full of advice, tips and support for students considering their next steps after leaving school. Did you know that only 30% of young people think work experience is essential, but 78% of employers think it is? And 68% of young people plan to go to university, but in six years time, only 30% of jobs will be in graduate roles? Check out the different routes available: traineeships, apprenticeships, degree apprenticeships - and have a look at the wide range of companies looking for apprentices.



GetMyFirstJob
Where it all starts.

Christmas message from Miss Berry - Careers Leader



I am always encouraging students (and parents/carers) to try out new courses, learn new things and add to their CVs. I do take my own advice and this year, I decided to learn Finnish! So as we end this term:

Hyvää joulua ja onnellista uutta vuotta! (which literally means Good Christmas and happy new year!)
Shown above is **joulupukki** - the Finnish equivalent of Santa, along with a **poro** - a reindeer. **Moikka!**

Virtual work experience opportunities to help students practise their core transferable skills and learn about different job roles, such as meeting the workplace challenges of a graphic designer or primary school teacher.

Check out the virtual work experience options with Barclays Life Skills - just in case you get bored over Christmas!

<https://barclayslifeskills.com/i-want-virtual-work-experience/school/virtual-work-experience>

Career of the Week for Christmas is the coolest job in the world (or at least the coldest!) - Antarctic Researcher. The Antarctic has the lowest naturally occurring temperature ever recorded on the surface on earth: -89°C. A number of governments maintain permanent research stations there and many are staffed throughout the year, varying from around 4000 during summer to 1000 in winter. The best way to get a job like this? Study science at school. However you could even work as a chef, doctor, mechanic or heating engineer - all vital roles. Your pay would be similar to that in the UK, but you wouldn't have anything to spend your money on - result! (from 'The Bonkers Book of Jobs' by Mark Wilkinson and John Ambrose)

<https://alliedhealthmentor.org/product/live-virtual-work-experience-programme/>

If you haven't already checked out this site, then get moving! Virtual work experience in lots of different areas of healthcare: Nursing, Midwifery, Paramedics, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, Radiographers, Art, drama & music therapists, Dietitians, Operating Department Practitioners, Podiatrists, Osteopaths, Orthoptists, Prosthetics & orthotics, Speech & language therapists. Brought to you by the team from Medic Mentors. Starts in February 2021 - don't miss this chance!

Apprenticeship Notifications

If anyone is interested in an apprenticeship, don't forget to check out the vacancies on the college websites.

Runshaw College: childcare, accounting, customer service, catering

Preston's College: H&S care, science, pharmacy, dental, beauty therapy, business, construction, accounting, automotive, ICT, hairdressing

Wigan & Leigh College: engineering, construction, accounting, business admin, customer service, catering

These are all current vacancies - although you can't start an apprenticeship yet, you can start looking at what is on offer (ignore the start dates, these are likely to be extended). Have a look at the salary, working hours, type of qualification, location, GCSE requirements - and start planning your CV!

The team from Amazing Apprenticeships recently presented a very popular webinar with the **Armed Forces**, No.1 in the Top 100 Apprenticeship Employers 2020 listing, and following this have created a helpful [Q&A factsheet](#).



You can also visit the [Royal Navy](#), [RAF](#) and [British Army](#) **Vacancy Snapshot profiles** for more helpful information on the programmes they offer, how to apply and more.

Whole School Messages

Perfect 3s

Has your child continued to achieve the perfect 3 since the start of term? There are **199** pupils with the perfect 3 - Well done!

Year 7: 31 pupils
Year 8: 49 pupils
Year 9: 47 pupils
Year 10: 37 students
Year 11: 35 students

Who had the perfect 3 last week?

Year 7: 143 pupils
Year 8: 124 pupils
Year 9: 109 pupils
Year 10: 126 students
Year 11: 146 students

Please congratulate your child if they are one of the perfect 3s! All BfL scores can be found in the Edulink app. **See the final pages of this bulletin for the names of our perfect 3 pupils!**

Are you ready for winter? Click [here](#) to see information from Chorley Council.

ACHIEVEMENT NEWS Click [here](#) to view the amazing feedback teachers have provided about some of their classes and students. Despite these tough times, it is really heart-warming to read such positive feedback. The news is split into year groups to make it easier for you.

<https://www.oxfordscholastica.com/oxford-scholastica-online/>

Parklands is a partner high school with The Oxford Scholastica Academy and as such, students are automatically entitled to a 15% discount on any course/conference or internship using the code PARKLANDSHIGHSCHOOL-15. There are also fully funded bursary placements available (contact Miss Berry for further details)

Covid over Christmas

As Christmas approaches, we would like to remind everyone of the importance of keeping up the high Covid safety standards we have maintained so far. No-one wants to have to miss Christmas because they have to be in isolation or run the risk of transferring the virus to any relatives who may be vulnerable.

- Any contact that your child has with a person who turns out to be a positive Covid case after Friday 11th December would mean that they would have to be in isolation over Christmas day.
- If your child tests positive **48 hours after** being in school, you do not need to inform school. The NHS Track & Trace system will deal with contact tracing.
- If your child tests positive **up to 48 hours after** finishing school, please email us at attendance@parklandsacademy.co.uk
- We will then conduct a track and trace of students who are close contacts to inform them of the requirement to isolate and for how long.

Parent Governor Elections

The ballot papers for the upcoming Parent Governor election will be sent home this week. Years 8&9 will bring theirs home from school on Thursday and ballot papers for Years 7,10 & 11 will be posted out on Thursday.

Dinner money will no longer be collected during form registration. All dinner money needs to be added via SCOPAY, the school's online payment system. If you require a link code to register, please email accounts@parklandsacademy.co.uk and one will be emailed to you.

Uniform expectations - reminder

From January we still expect all pupils to adhere and comply with our uniform standards. Please see below;

Uniform

- PHS trousers must be worn
- Coats can be worn in the building whilst moving around school. In the classroom they may be worn at the teacher's discretion if the classroom is cold.
- Parklands PE must be worn only designated PE days. Blazers must be worn over any kit.
- Plain black and navy hoodies may be worn to and from school and again if the classroom is cold.
- Trainers must not be worn unless it is a PE day.

Make up/Jewellery

- Christmas nails and nail colour must be removed before returning to school on the 4th January.
- False eyelashes are not permitted.
- All piercings must be removed.
- False tan and make up are not allowed.
- Only natural hair colour is permitted.

Parklands reserves the right to remove or confiscate any non-regulation items.

Perfect 3s - Year 7

Amber K	Hubert Z
Ava B	Isabelle G
Ben B	Isobel A
Callum D	Jemma M
Cameron J	Kara M
Charlie R	Layla M
Claudia O	Lewis E
Eadie G	Lucy G
Elizabeth C	Mariam O
Elizabeth V	Matilda C
Emily G	Matilda F
Emmie C	Max W
Ethan D	Paige R
Eve C	Scarlett K
Grace C	Suzanna G
Holly H	

Congratulations!
You have achieved the perfect 3 in every lesson since
September!

Perfect 3s - Year 8		
Alex T	Freya K	Milly S
Amy W	Grace H	Molly D
Ashleigh-Paige C	Grace S	Myles S
Ben H	Harrison S	Natasha G
Ben P	Holly M	Niamh B
Beth M	Iker D	Nicola S
Bruno H	Imani B	Oscar H
Charlie L	Isaac S	Poppy H
Charlotte V	Janna H	Robyn H
Chloe H	Lily-Mae H	Samuel M
Daniel W	Lucy B	Scarlett P
Derin A	Luke D	Verity M
Eleanor E	Madison D	Victoria C
Ellie P	Malaika M	Victoria E
Finlay R	Matthew O	Willow L
Finn H	Max T	
Freya H	May S	

Congratulations!
You have achieved the perfect 3 in every lesson since
September!

Perfect 3s - Year 9		
Abbie B	Fran B	Maisie L
Abi L	Freya M	Mariam H
Aimee M	George G	Martha C
Annabelle A	Grace B	Megan P
Ayesha M	Harry L	Olivia D
Billy S	Harvey P	Paige C
Cara F	Hollyanne M	Rebecca W
Charlie C	Isabel H	Ruby J
Chester S	Isabella C	Ruby S
Courtney F	Jack T	Sarah G
Ella P	Josh M	Seb H
Emily B	Josie D	Shayla H
Emily L	Kaitlyn C	Talya A
Emily W	Laura C	Thomas G
Emma R	Leah A	Zeyan M
Finley S	Madi B	

Congratulations!
You have achieved the perfect 3 in every lesson since
September!

Perfect 3s - Year 10**Alex W****Jack L****Amna E****Jack W****Amy H****Jacob S****Bethany M****Katie B****Catherine M****Lily M****Charlotte K****Lily R****Darcie D****Lily W****Eamonn D****Lucas C****Emily C****Lucas S****Evie C****Luis C****Evie R****Mia G****Fraser A****Mia-Louise P****Freya H****Ned C****Freya T****Raahim A****Gab I****Samuel P****Hannah L****Susannah R****Ilyana G****Thomas M****Isaac R****Violet R****Isabella G****Congratulations!****You have achieved the perfect 3 in every lesson since
September!**

Perfect 3s - Year 11

Adam R	Libby K
Amber S	Libby L
Anna T	Lola P
Bradley C	Matylda N
Brandon L	May U
Eleanor A	Megan E
Ella A	Milo H
Evie W	Minnie H
Ewan W	Mohamed E
Finley N	Phoebe L
Gypsy N	Rhys H
Hallie I	Rihana R
Isabelle G	Sarah-Beth L
Jack D	Sophie D
Jackeline P	Sophie G
James C	Thomas E
Jasmine T	Verity R
Lauren H	

Congratulations!
You have achieved the perfect 3 in every lesson since
September!