



21 December 2020

Dear parents, carers and guardians

As parents and students have already had to endure the consequences of 'eleventh hour' decision-making in the lead up to the summer examination results, once again I am sorry to inform you of government changes that will impact upon our children and your busy family lives.

Accentuating the positive - all secondary schools have been asked to prepare as Lateral Flow Testing sites. This process will mean far fewer staff and students will miss school to self-isolate and far more students will be able to attend school. Also, we will be able to identify far more asymptomatic cases – those are people who have no symptoms but may be passing the virus on to others. Results from the tests will be available in thirty minutes.

The essential changes are as follows:

Students in Years 11 and 13

School will be closed to all students on **Monday 4 January**.

Lessons will begin on **Tuesday 5 January**.

All public and internal examinations will go ahead as planned. It is vital that these are fully prepared for.

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 12

School will be closed to students on **Monday 4 January**. On line learning will begin from **Tuesday 5 January** and will continue for the rest of the week, unless students have exams.

Lessons in school will recommence on **Monday 11 January**.

Any students with any examinations – both internal and public must prepare as instructed.

All exams will go ahead as planned, with the exception of the Y9 exams which will occur one week later.

Some students may be identified as falling into a category which requires them to be in School before this.

We shall provide more information for you as the government makes it available. Please be reassured that the short term cost of this inconvenience should lead to much improved continuity for our children's education.

- We shall be in touch with you asking for your consent for your child's involvement and for their data to be used.
- Some children's parents will be contacted directly as new definitions of vulnerability become available.

We recommend that all students check that their Google Classroom login works from home in advance of the first day they need it. The 'Get In Touch' tab on the school website has a range of email addresses including one for login issues.

Lateral Flow Testing - <https://poolehigh.co.uk/coronavirus-testing-in-schools/>

If there is anyone in the community who is willing to help as a volunteer, particularly if you have a medical / health background, we would very much appreciate your support. Please contact us at the school email address: school@poolehigh.poole.sch.uk - providing details of when you are available and what support you are able to provide. Obviously, all safeguarding protocols will be observed.

We had hoped to send out the necessary paperwork with permission slips but the Department of Education has yet to produce it. When it is available we will publish it on line and also make hard copies available in school for anyone who would like to collect one. Students who are 16 or under will need parental permission to take part. I shall write a further letter to you on Monday 4 January 2021.

Thank you for your understanding,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Gray', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Mr P Gray
Headteacher