

8th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

At the end of a busy week I thought I would write to you all briefly with a few key updates.

Remote education from 11th January onwards

As mentioned at the beginning of the week, students in years 7-11 will receive 15 face to face Teams lessons each week to be supported by assignments set on Show My Homework. Students in Years 12 and 13 will largely follow their normal timetable which will also be supplemented by Show My Homework assignments. This mix is to allow for the different learning styles of all students whilst still maintaining regular face to face contact with teaching staff. Please also see this link to our website which explains how to access our remote learning platforms and resources from home <https://www.samworthchurchacademy.co.uk/student-information/remote-learning-guide>.

Year 11 and 13 Exams

At the start of this week we took the decision to move all January mock exams for Years 11 and 13 on a week. Since Monday's announcement that schools will be almost fully closed until the February half term and Summer exams are to be cancelled again, we have decided to continue with the delayed mock exams for these year groups but in a remote form. This will help us to collect further key data to help with our teacher assessments which will be needed to calculate final grades this year. It will also mean that the hard work students will have done to prepare for these exams does not go to waste. This announcement has been made to students directly and subject teachers will be in touch with their groups next week to let them know exactly when and how their exam papers will be set.

Student wellbeing

Tutors will be making contact with students on a weekly basis and will get in touch with parents/carers if they cannot make contact with students in their tutor groups for whatever reason. In addition, all students will be provided with key detail about where to go and who to go to for additional support should they need it. Regardless, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy or the relevant learning manager in the usual way if there are any concerns you would like us to help with.

Vulnerable and Key Worker Provision

A brief reminder that if you are a key worker who will be working between now and the February half term and need your child to attend school as they are not old enough to be left alone or there are no other alternatives, please email spencer@tscacademy.org.uk as soon as possible. It is essential that we have this information so that we can put suitable arrangements in place and so that we can follow our safeguarding arrangements should your child not arrive at the Academy when expected.

Covid Testing at the Academy

We began our asymptomatic testing programme this week starting with testing 50 staff who have all tested negative. We will begin testing those students who are attending school on Monday, but only for those students for whom we have a completed consent form which has been provided electronically. At some point in the future, when more students return to education on the school site, I expect we will offer testing to more students but, once again, you have my assurances that no-one will be tested without full and active consent from parents/carers.

If you have any further questions about anything in this update, please email enquiries@tscacademy.org.uk.

I hope you all have a safe and relaxing weekend as far as possible.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa McVeigh". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "L" and "M".

Lisa McVeigh
Principal