

18th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Following on from the end of term letter shared with you yesterday, I am writing to inform you of some important updates following the very recent government announcements. I apologise for the last-minute nature of this letter but we have responded to government changes to plans as quickly as possible.

INSET Day – 4th January

I appreciate that it is short notice, but due to the training that will be necessary for us to implement the national testing programme, the Academy will be closed to all students on Monday 4th January. This will allow us to provide staff with the necessary training and information. If you have particular child care issues due to this, that you cannot resolve yourself, please do get in touch by emailing enquiries@tscacademy.org.uk.

First week back - 5th – 8th January

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 will return to the Academy as normal and will follow their normal timetables.

Students in Years 7 – 10 and Year 12 will be provided with a remote learning package between 5th and 8th January and will return to the Academy on Monday 11th January 2021. Students should check Show my Homework and Teams daily.

Vulnerable and Key Worker Provision

Students who are vulnerable and the children of key workers will be able to come into school as normal from the 5th January and a timetable with a full curriculum offer will be written for them. Timings of the day will be as follows:

- Students should arrive at 8.45am and make their way to the restaurant.
- Their day will end at 2.30pm.

If you are a key worker who will be working between 5th and 8th January and you would like your child to attend please email sspencer@tscacademy.org.uk or call 01623 663450 between 9am and 1.30pm on Monday 21st to Wednesday 23rd December. 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 now have more information on the plans for testing in schools in the New Year but more is expected soon. As explained in the previous letter, please rest assured that full parental consent will be required before any testing takes place with individual students. Full details of how we will run testing will be made available to parents as soon as we have had time to carefully make plans, but we expect that this will be done electronically with consent obtained using one of our existing systems. Please continue to check your emails and our website for further updates from 4th January.

Free School Meals

If your child is entitled to free school meals we will be providing a food parcel to cover the week when they are learning at home. These will be available for you to collect from the Academy on Monday 4th January between 11am and 1pm. If you have any particular difficulties in collecting your parcel please

contact us in the usual way so we can discuss alternatives with you. If your child will be attending the Academy that week then they will be provided with a meal as usual.

Covid Winter Grant Scheme

In November the government introduced a new Covid Winter Grant Scheme which allows local authorities to directly help those families who may need it during the winter period. Please click [here](#) for further information.

If you have any further questions about this, or if your child tests positive for Covid-19 between now and 24th December, please email enquiries@tscacademy.org.uk.

Once again, thank you for all your ongoing support and I hope you all have a safe, restful and Merry Christmas.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa McVeigh', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Lisa McVeigh
Principal