



31st December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Following on from some announcements made in Parliament yesterday, I am writing to inform you of some important updates and reminders for the start of next term so you have them all in one place. Once again, I apologise for the last-minute nature of these changes, but we are responding as quickly as we can to government responses to the changing course of the pandemic.

INSET Day – 4th January

The Academy will remain closed to all students on Monday 4th January. This will allow us to provide staff with the necessary training and information for testing and to set up remote learning for all year groups for the start of the Spring Term.

First week back - 5th – 8th January

Students in Year 11 and 13 will now not return to the Academy until Monday 11th January and will be provided with remote learning using Show My Homework and some Teams lessons during the first week of term.

All other students will also be provided with a remote learning package **but those in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will now not return to the Academy until Monday 18th January.**

All 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 15th January and you would like your child to attend, please email sspencer@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 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 weeks where they will be learning at home. Food parcels for next week will be available for collection 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 through the vulnerable and key worker provision and is entitled to a free school meal, 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, please email enquiries@tscacademy.org.uk.

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support and I hope you all have a happy and safe New Year.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa McVeigh', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

Lisa McVeigh
Principal