



# St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School

Prepare the way of the Lord

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Dear Parent/Carer

When I wrote my final letter to you before Christmas yesterday, little did I think I would be writing to you again this morning. You might recall my September letter to you about the re-opening of school when I quoted the famous '24 hours is a long time in politics' and for the second time in a few months I feel the need to quote it again.

You will be aware that the Government announced yesterday afternoon that there would be a staggered return to school in January 2021 to facilitate coronavirus testing in schools. It is worth noting that I have only found this information out through the media and have received nothing from the Department for Education.

I am sure that you will be as frustrated as I am with the timing of this announcement and with the lack of detail that has accompanied it. However, the following summarises what we do know:-

- **Year 11 pupils** will **all return to school** on **Thursday 7 January 2021**
- Pupils classed as '**vulnerable**' and '**children of critical workers**' will **all return to school on Thursday 7 January 2021**. (Our school records already contain the pupils in current Years 8, 9 & 10 who are vulnerable or children of critical workers, as they were in school in the summer term, unless your situation has changed).
- If you are a parent of a **Year 7** child who you think would fulfil either of these two pupil types (vulnerable or children of critical workers), please click on the link below to complete a survey so that we can make arrangements by **Wednesday 6 January 2021**.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=aWzIPdolmUiJCLK7g87zyZyfFtweWotImPkjY\\_9c605UOEVXM0Q3NDMzR0gzVzIMS0hERVdLRFBGQi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=aWzIPdolmUiJCLK7g87zyZyfFtweWotImPkjY_9c605UOEVXM0Q3NDMzR0gzVzIMS0hERVdLRFBGQi4u)

- For all other pupils in **Years 7 - 10** on **Thursday 7 January** and **Friday 8 January 2021** all lessons will be conducted on 'Microsoft Teams'. Please help us by encouraging your child to join every lesson over these two days.

Schools are waiting for Government guidance regarding how to set up the testing facilities, staff the testing facilities, gain consent for the tests and organise the logistics of it. Once that guidance is in place, I will make the necessary arrangements.

As you know, the school closes today, therefore I will send you another letter on Wednesday 6 January 2021 (Inset Day) when I hope to be able to explain to you how we will implement this directive. For definitely the last time this term, on behalf of the staff, pupils and governors of the school I wish you a very Happy and Holy Christmas.

Yours faithfully

**M J DUMICAN**  
Headteacher

