

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do hope you have enjoyed your Christmas and would like to wish you a Happy New Year. Many of you will be aware that on Wednesday 30th January the Government released the plans for the start of the new term and changes that would be needed to tackle the nationwide increase in CV19 cases, particularly the increase in the new strain of the virus. As a result of this new guidance, we have needed to adjust our plans for the first few weeks of the new term. The first few weeks of the new term will be as follows;

### **Monday 4th January**

This will be a staff training day, no students are required in school, there will be no remote learning on this day.

### **Tuesday 5th January and for the remainder of the week**

**Years 7 to 11** - Online learning from home will commence for ALL STUDENTS. There will be work set for these students through google classroom. There will not be "live lessons" this week as staff will be preparing for the in school testing that will commence the following week. Work must be completed and staff will be monitoring this very closely.

### **Monday 11th January**

**Year 11** - Year 11 will be expected back in school from this day to receive face to face teaching. Any Year 11 students who study Health and Social Care have their examination on Monday 11th January. In addition; Year 11 students who study ICT have their examination on Wednesday 13th January. It is crucial that your child attends school to sit these examinations. Absence without medical evidence could result in parents being charged for the missed examinations.

**Years 7 to 10** - Online learning will continue but lessons will now be "live" lessons with their teachers where possible. All students will need to follow their normal timetable for this week and log in to their lessons via google classroom. Attendance at these live lessons will be monitored by staff and are compulsory.

### **Monday 18th January**

***All students will return to school this week for face-to-face learning.***

### **Vulnerable Students and Children of Key Workers**

Vulnerable students (as identified by the school and have received calls from school before the Christmas break) and those who have completed the key worker forms are expected in school from **Tuesday 5th January**.

Please be aware that school is closed this week and only students of key workers who cannot stay at home are expected to attend (for those in years 9, 10 and 11 it is an expectation that these students stay at home unless they have been identified as vulnerable by school).

The vulnerable and Key worker students will be provided with an ICT facility so that they can follow the online work within school.

**Any student who is Clinically extremely vulnerable and has been advised by their GP to stay at home should not attend school but should continue to complete their learning at home. Any student with Covid symptoms or those self-isolating should remain at home.**

**I have summarised the key points in the table below;**

Date	Year 11	Years 7 to 10	Key Workers children (Years 7 8 and 9)	Vulnerable Students (identified by school)
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Not in school, no online learning	Not in school, no online learning	Not in school, no online learning	Not in school, no online learning
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan and for the rest of that week.	Work set via google classrooms to be completed.	Work set via google classrooms to be completed.	In school following online learning.	In school following online learning.
Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan and for the rest of that week.	All Year 11 in school	Live lessons from home where a live lesson is not possible work is set via google classrooms.	In school following online learning.	In school following online learning.
Mon 18 <sup>th</sup> January	ALL STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL			

### **Lateral flow testing**

Thank you for those who have completed the consent form for the lateral flow testing that is due to commence next week. We have had around 500 responses to this google form, however we have still not had responses from a significant number of parents. We have now made multiple requests for this to be completed, however, around 300 parents have not yet completed this. **If you have not already done so, it is essential that this form is completed for Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January at the latest.**

**A failure to complete this survey will add significant workload pressures on staff at what is an already very difficult time. Your co-operation and understanding is appreciated.**

A link to the form is attached below:

<https://forms.gle/VNKwHbyKdUp9jWVm8>

### **Year 10 Parents Evening Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January**

In light of the new guidance on the return of students to school we will have to reschedule our Year 10 parents evening for another date. We will communicate with parents of Year 10 students when a suitable date has been scheduled.

I will email all students with a version of this letter to their school Gmail accounts so that they also have a copy for reference.

We would like to thank all parents and carers for their ongoing support of the school during these extremely challenging times.

Yours faithfully

Tom Duce

Deputy Headteacher