

18th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Staggered Start to Spring Term

The Department for Education have recently made a series of announcements that include plans to introduce a staggered start for secondary students in the new term. This letter is to inform you about how our school will be dealing with these changes and what our current plans are for the first week of the Spring term.

To begin with, we will be expecting **only Year 11 students to return to school on Monday 4th of January. All remaining year groups will be expected to continue with remote learning from home between Monday 4th and Friday 8th of January.** Our staff are committed to ensuring that remote learning will be in place for students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 and our usual lines of support will be available during this time.

We will expect all students to attend school as normal, from Monday 11th of January.

Vulnerable Children and Children of Critical Workers

Provision will be in place for vulnerable children and children of critical workers in all year groups, to attend school from Monday 4th of January. Children who have been classified as vulnerable have been contacted by the school separately. Critical workers who would like to request supervised remote provision in school, must apply for via the google form by Tuesday 22nd December using the link below

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe6vKvlbmnQv73SCBlw3bVcDJl7JBjulzK2mqrdiHsA18DxOg/viewform>

Testing

Included in the announcements from the DfE are plans to make optional testing widely available to staff and students, in school. We believe that taking this route would help ensure our school community's safety and that it would also help to improve our students' quality of learning, by decreasing the number of days that are required for self-isolation. We currently do not have the staff, space capacity or expertise to administer the number of tests that would be required in a school our size, however we are awaiting further guidance and will be exploring all options available to us.

Please be reassured that our students' safety and wellbeing remains our top priority. We will be doing our very best to work with the new regulations, in what little time we have available. If the current situation changes regarding the roll-out of testing then we may need to alter our plans before the new term starts. We plan to contact you with more details in early January and will be sure to inform you of any important developments along the way.

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Your patience and understanding is very much appreciated during this time. It surely has been a challenging year and we are grateful for the support we have received from our parents and carers. We hope you and your family are able to enjoy a peaceful and relaxing holiday season. On behalf of everyone associated with the school, we wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink, appearing to read 'Helen Watts', with a stylized, flowing script.

Helen Watts
Principal