

18 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Following my end of term letter yesterday, I was not expecting to be writing again so soon. The government made some announcements yesterday and published guidance yesterday evening notifying all secondary schools in England that only Year 11 and the children of critical workers and vulnerable children will have face-to-face teaching in the week beginning 4th January 2021. They have also recommended that schools use January 4th as an additional INSET day. This is to enable schools to put processes and systems in place to test students and teachers. We have limited information so far about testing in schools, some of which is here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges/coronavirus-covid-19-asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges> I am sure that you will have questions about testing in schools but I would request that you don't email me to ask for further information at this time as I don't have that information myself yet. I will email and let you have further details about the plan for testing on Monday 4th January.

Non-Pupil Day Monday 4th January 2021

In a change from the published term dates, Monday 4th January will be a non-pupil staff training day. Students will not be provided with work on that day.

Tuesday 5th January – Friday 8th January

Year 11 will return for face-to face teaching on Tuesday 5th January.

All other students should follow their normal timetable and be on Teams and their email for the teaching and lesson material to be delivered. Children of critical workers and vulnerable children who come into school will not receive face-to face teaching but will be supervised in a computer room in school so that they can receive the remote teaching that their peers are receiving at home. Please note that children of critical workers should only be sent in if there is no-one at home to supervise them and you feel that they cannot be left at home unsupervised. Clearly the intention is that those who can work from home do so.

Important information to be received by 3pm on Tuesday 22nd December

If you are sending your child into school that week because you are a critical worker, we need to know by midday on Monday 4th January that we can plan accordingly for numbers that will be in school from Tuesday. Please reply to this email to let us know.

If you are sending your child in because they cannot be at home, they will need PC Compatible headphones with a 3.5mm jack connector. We do have some that we can lend out, but in these COVID times, I am sure you understand that it would be preferable if students have their own.

Uniform Expectations

Students in school from 5th January are expected to be in full school uniform.

Children who are eligible for free school meals

A food parcel will be available to be picked up from the school office from 11am on Monday 4th January.

Canteen offer for students in school from Tuesday 5th January

The canteen will offer a slightly reduced menu from Tuesday to Friday of that week that will consist of jacket potatoes, Pasta King, some panini and wraps.



Transport

Buses/taxis will run as normal.

I apologise for the late change of plans and thank you for your continued support and understanding.

Once again, I wish you and your families a very Happy Christmas

With kind regards

Rachel Kelly, Headteacher

