



18 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Normally, when I write to you at the end of the autumn term, I do not expect to have to write to you again before we break for the Christmas holidays. But, we know things continue not to be normal.

You will have read in the media about the Government directed changes to the start of the new school term, from January 2021. In essence, students will move to remote learning for the week of 4 January until 11 January and not return to school for face to face teaching. This is with the exception of students in Y11 and 13, some vulnerable students, students whose parents are critical workers and those involved in vocational exams.

You will recognise, there is little time for the school to plan and organise this properly and safely. Particularly, when you consider that this change is to allow the introduction of mass testing in schools. As a school, we have very limited time to organise logistics for this testing, the training of staff and the organisation of recording and reporting of the testing.

Therefore, the **school will be closed to all students on Monday, 4 January 2021**. This will be a staff training day. This will allow all staff, time to plan learning for students and then get to grips with the complex requirements to test your children.

I have no further details at this time as to how this will work. Please be patient with us. I will do everything I can over Christmas to get a coherent plan to you as soon as possible. I am mindful of not interrupting your precious family time and holiday, so I will not share this with you until Monday, 4 January.

There is no need to contact the school until you have received our, **'Spring Term Planning document'**.

For clarity:

- School will be closed to all students on Monday, 4 January 2021 - this will be a staff training day.
- Students in Y11 and 13 will return to school on Tuesday, 5 January 2021 for face to face teaching.
- Vulnerable students and those students whose parents are critical workers will return to school on Tuesday, 5 January 2021.
- Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will study from home from 5 January. Details of their work can be accessed in the normal way, via Class Charts.
- Students in Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will return to face to face teaching on Monday, 11 January 2021.

- The 21 students in Y10, who have an external BTEC Construction exam on 7 January, will come into school for this exam only, and return home afterwards to continue accessing remote learning until 11 January. Further details will follow in the 'Spring Term Planning' document.

Please accept my sincere apologies for the inconvenience this will cause you. This is not a situation any of us want to be in.

Again, thank you for your support this term, I wish you and your family a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely



Matthew West  
Principal