



4 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

You may already be aware that, since I last wrote to you, on 18 December, the Government has announced that arrangements for this week's phased return of secondary school students has changed. This letter is to inform you of the changes and how this will affect your child/children:

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January:**

Year 11 and Year 13 students will no longer attend school the first week of term, instead they will be expected to engage in the remote learning made available to them. Students in Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 will be provided with remote learning and will be expected to work from home. The only exceptions to this are the vulnerable students and children of critical workers in these year groups.

\* Please note that partnership lessons with Brigshaw will not begin until **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021**.

From Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January the following students should still attend school for supervision and learning activities:

- Vulnerable students (identified by school) – from all year groups
- Children of critical workers (see [definition of a critical worker](#) here) from all year groups (please refer to the text message received and complete the link within)

The students in school will remain in their Year Group Bubbles. Students will be expected to wear their school uniform (Years 7 – 11), bring relevant equipment each day and meet all our usual expectations, including our COVID risk mitigation measures.

Students should arrive at school through the front reception area at their usual start time:

Y7 at 8:15 am; Y8 at 8:25; Y9 at 8:35; Y10 at 8.45 and Y11 at 8.55 to prevent them mixing with other Year Group Bubbles.

Post 16 students should arrive at their usual entrance and sign in with Mrs Pearson at 8.25 am.

**Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January:**

During this period the following students should attend school for face-to-face teaching:

- All students in Year 11
- All students in Year 13
- Vulnerable students (identified by school) – from all year groups
- Children of critical workers (see [definition of a critical worker](#) here) from all year groups

These students will remain in their Year Group Bubbles, follow their usual timetable and will be taught by their usual teachers (wherever possible). The timings of the school day will remain the same and students will be expected to wear their school uniform (Years 7 – 11), bring relevant equipment each day (including PE kit when needed) and meet all our usual expectations, including our COVID risk mitigation measures.



Students in Year 7, Year 8, Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 will be provided with remote learning and will be expected to work from home. The only exceptions to this are the vulnerable students and children of critical workers in these year groups.

Y11 students should arrive at school through the front reception area at 8:55 as usual. Y13 students should arrive at 8:25 as usual, via the 6th Form entrance.

### **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January onwards:**

All students will be expected to return to school for face-to-face teaching on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

All students should arrive at school through their normal entrance point, at their usual start time: Y7 at 8:15 am; Y8 at 8:25; Y9 at 8.35; Y10 at 8.45; Y11 at 8.55 and Y12 and 13 at 8.25.

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

The Government has provided a [definition of a critical worker](#) for this purpose. If you classify as a critical worker and you would like to book a place for your child, please complete link within the text message you will have received, before Christmas and yesterday, as soon as possible if you have not yet done so, and **by 6 pm on Monday 4th January at the latest.**

School will identify vulnerable students and their parents will be contacted individually with the offer of a school place from the 5<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> January. This will include (but will not be restricted to) children who have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) and Looked After Children. If your child falls into either of these categories, then they will be able to attend school during this period.

### **BTEC Exams**

Post 16 BTEC exams next week will go ahead as scheduled.

Y10 students sitting the BTEC Construction examination on Thursday 7th January will be contacted by Mr Harmer tomorrow, to discuss their preparations and whether it is appropriate to take this examination on Thursday. Given the fact that we had planned to offer face to face boosters to help students prepare, which we are no longer able to do, we believe that it will be in the best interests of most students to delay the sitting of these exams until a future date. However, we recognise that some students may have already prepared for these and may wish to sit the examination as planned, and therefore this will be determined during the conversation with Mr Harmer.

### **Free School Meals**

Those eligible for Free School Meals will be sent meal vouchers. This will be to the value of the four days of allocation students would have had in school this week. This will be sent directly via email to parents from our supplier (ASDA). Children who are FSM and attend school, either as part of the critical worker or identified vulnerable groups, will be provided with a lunch. This system will continue each week unless further details are released to you

### **Expectations of students learning remotely**

If your son or daughter does not have access to Wi Fi at home, or there are any other issues with access to remote learning, please inform school as soon as possible so that alternative arrangements can be made.

### **Mass and serial testing of students and staff**

We are currently making arrangements to offer COVID-19 lateral flow device testing to students and staff, prioritising staff, vulnerable children, children of critical workers and students in Year 11 and Year 13. The guidance for this is still being updated by the Government, but we aim to introduce this testing as soon as possible after 4<sup>th</sup> January (starting with staff). We will write to you again as soon as our plans have been finalised. Please be re-assured that we will only test students where parental consent has been given in advance.



Once more, I can only apologise for the inconvenience this will cause to many of you. The situation is changing rapidly and I will inform you as soon as possible with further changes as they reach me. The 'Spring Term Reopening Document' I previously informed you about, will now be replaced by the details here in this letter and 'procedures for testing' documentation, which will follow on completion.

Yours faithfully



Matthew West  
Principal

