

18th December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

As you will be aware, at 6.20pm last night the DfE and government provided schools with information relating to the week beginning 4th January 2021. With such short notice, I wish to ensure that we respond in an appropriate and timely manner to provide all of our young people a safe and appropriate return to school. In order for my colleagues to understand and action the implications of us as a school now having to administer testing alongside maintaining educational standards I have agreed that we will use the 4th January as an extra INSET day. Please note this part of the advice from DfE. From Tuesday 5th January we will comply with government expectation that only children in exam years ie. Year 11 and Year 13 plus children of critical workers will be taught face to face in school. Normal timings of the school day will be in place and an appropriate curriculum offer will be followed (ie. normal school rules and expectations are in place including uniform).

Students in Year 7 – 10 and Year 12 will be able to access our remote learning offer via Microsoft Teams. Please ensure your child knows their password and login details as colleagues will be monitoring student’s engagement throughout this week.

At present we believe that this guidance is only for 1 week and I will communicate with you all with further updates as soon as I have clarity.

Monday 4th January Inset Day	NO STUDENTS IN SCHOOL or remote learning.
Tuesday 5th January – Friday 8th January	School open to students in Y11 & Y13 and children of critical workers only. To register your child as a critical worker please complete the form through this link by 12pm on Monday 4 th January https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CriticalworkerchildrenJan21 Students in Y7, Y8, Y9, Y10, Y12 - remote learning from home
Monday 11th January	All students to return to school

Weekly Coronavirus Testing

We hope to receive detailed guidance about how the scheme will operate over the next 2 weeks and will send updates to you by email.

Loan Laptops

We have a small number of loan laptops still available to support learning from home. Loan laptops will be prioritised initially to those students who are entitled to free school meals. If your child does not have access to technology to access Microsoft Teams, please let us know by completing a request on the [link on our school website](#).

Loan laptops will be available for collection from the school reception on Monday 4th January 2021. If you have not yet registered for free school meals, you can do so by following this link [Free School Meals info and Application](#).

Remote Learning

There are lots of resources/guidance videos available to help you to access MS Teams on our school website in the [Remote Learning section](#).

I can only apologise for the late notice regarding the above information but can I reiterate that it is with increasing frustration that as the Head of the School, I only receive guidance at the same time that is made public.

I wish you a safe and peaceful Christmas and as always, thank you for your ongoing support.

With kind regards

K Simpson
Headteacher