

4th January 2021

Dear Parents/carers,

I hope you have enjoyed a well deserved rest over the festive season and may I take this time to wish you and your loved ones good health and a Happy New Year.

You may have seen lots of reports over the weekend speculating about the re-opening of schools. At present we have had no further information so the arrangements for school opening is as detailed in my letter of 31.12.20. However, as always, I will continue to update you as soon as I receive information.

Parents/carers of students who have been registered as Critical Worker children have been contacted directly and I would like to thank those parents for re-confirming their attendance in school.

Free School Meals

The Government have requested that schools provide weekly food parcels to families who are entitled to receive free school meals but who are not eligible to attend school. Pre ordered weekly food parcels can be collected from school whilst school is closed. Please complete the form on this link to request a food parcel [Food parcel link](#)

Families entitled to free school meals are also entitled to apply for additional financial support to help with food and other essentials across the winter period through the [Covid Winter Grant Scheme](#).

Summary of arrangements for the upcoming weeks

Tuesday 5th – Friday 8th January	<p>Students in Years 11, 12 & 13 – students are to access remote sessions from home via Microsoft Teams. Please see information below regarding remote lessons.</p> <p>Students in Year 12 & 13 who have scheduled external exams – these WILL still take place and students should attend school as per the timetable previously issued.</p> <p>Students in Year 7, 8, 9 & 10 – Students will be set work via Microsoft Teams.</p>
Week commencing Monday 11th January	<p>Students in Years 11 & 13 to return to school. Year 13 should attend school as per the examination timetable previously issued.</p> <p>Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12 to access remote learning from home via Microsoft Teams. Please ensure your child knows their password and login details as colleagues will be monitoring student’s engagement throughout this week. Students will be registering and there will be live interactive elements to lessons. Microsoft Teams is available via laptops, tablet and mobile phone devises. Please see information below regarding remote lessons.</p>
Week commencing Monday 18th January	<p>All students return to school.</p>

Remote learning

To support learning of our students and to provide structure to their studies, students will be required to follow their timetable as if they were in school. Each session will have some live/interactive elements, thereby students will receive key information and feedback. For this week these sessions will only be for students in Y11 – 13 and then will include all year groups from Monday 11th January.

Remote learning sessions will take a variety of forms depending on the subject material being delivered. Where possible staff may inform classes in advance of details so that they know what resources they need. Remote learning sessions will last for 50 minutes and include an 'in real time' element. For clarity this will not necessarily be a full lecture style lesson but could include short periods of teacher led activities with teachers supporting learning, for example through the chat function on MS Teams. These sessions may also include pre-recorded elements; reading time; clips to watch in addition to tasks to assess the learning and understanding of students. This is obviously a different style of remote learning we are introducing and it will continue to be developed and will evolve this half term.

Timings of the school day

We would like you to encourage your children to maintain a routine for learning, this includes starting their day appropriately including being suitably dressed (although for clarification school uniform is not required) and ready to engage in their first lesson. If possible, try to find a suitably quiet workspace that they can use to have their resources at hand. The timings of the school day for relevant year groups are below but please remember that teachers will need time to move and set up lessons so we would be grateful if students could be patient until the lesson begins. Teachers will be checking engagement and completion of work and will work with students to overcome any barriers to ensure that they remain focused and on track.

It is imperative as always, that high standards around attitude to learning/behaviour is maintained thereby please remind your child to work to the best of their ability and stretch themselves in completing the work set. To maintain the holistic support for each of our children, tutor time will be an opportunity for our young people to engage with their peers and receive daily updates from their form tutor. Tutors will also be in direct contact with each of their tutees to ensure that they have the opportunity to have a check in conversation and maintain the connectivity that supports their emotional and mental health. This is also the opportunity for your child to message their tutor about any concerns they have in order that they can help find a solution to their worries. RSLs/Heads of Year will in time also be sharing online assemblies and Year Group information.

Colleagues have given up much of their own time over the recent holiday and have constructively used today's INSET day to ensure your child receives the best remote learning experience. We will continue to work in partnership with parents and carers ensuring the safety, welfare and holistic outcomes of our students is of paramount importance.

Years 7 - 9		Years 10 – 13	
08:40	Lesson 1	08:40	Lesson 1
09:40	Break	09:40	Lesson 2
10:00	Lesson 2	10:40	Break
11:00	Lesson 3	11:00	Lesson 3
12:00	Lunch /Tutor	12:00	Lunch/Tutor
13:00	Lesson 4	13:00	Lesson 4
14:00	Lesson 5	14:00	Lesson 5

Additional time has been built into lessons to allow for a short break.

6th Form Centre Assessed Exams

Just a reminder that Year 13 Centre Assessed Exams are still taking place from Monday 11th January as planned. Further information about Year 12 and 13 will be sent from the 6th Form team.

Testing in schools

Following on from my previous correspondence, you will be aware that testing of all staff and students will take place in school. Today colleagues have been working the guidance around setting up a testing centre and the exceptional intricacies to put this into place. Over the next few days we are hopeful that we will be able to test all of our staff and are working to then start testing students in Y11 & 13. For students under the age of 16 we do require parental consent. Students over the age of 16 are able to give their own consent. Please look out for relevant communication giving further information and asking you to complete the consent forms. You will be aware that for schools to run as a testing centre we will potentially need an army of volunteers to support our in-school staff as this rolls out. Again, I will be sending out relevant information about how you may wish to volunteer in the near future but for clarity, clearly all volunteers will be Safeguard/DBS checked. Thank you in advance for considering being part of our school community and helping support this national initiative.

Covid-19

The previous procedure for reporting any positive results remains in place. Please use the dedicated email address c19alert@nestonhigh.com.

Understandably we will continue to follow national, regional and local guidance and ask that you remind your child to be "covid safe" at all times in school and when in the community. Again, it has been a privilege to work with my colleagues in preparing for the new term and I would like to thank them for their dedication and professionalism as we move into to new year.

As I am sure you will appreciate this is a changing position and I would be grateful if you could continue to monitor messages from school.

With hope for a brighter future and thank you in advance for your ongoing support.

Kindest regards

K Simpson
Headteacher