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CSA/pjr

31 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Staggered start to Spring term

As you may have seen in the news yesterday, the government has announced further changes to students returning to school in the first two week of the spring term in response to a rapid rise in cases and also to facilitate the planning and set up of mass testing in schools.

From Tuesday 5 January to Friday 8 January, school will be closed to all but vulnerable and key worker students. Students in Year 11 and Year 13 will now return on Monday 11 January. All other year groups will return to school on Monday 18 January 2021.

Key Worker and Vulnerable Provision

As with the previous lockdown, provision will be made for these students in school. If after reading this [guidance](#) you feel that you will require this provision and if you have not already done so, please complete this [form](#) by **Sunday 3 January 2021** to allow us to plan our provision. We will contact you on Monday 4 January to confirm arrangements for this provision.

External Exams

Scheduled exams in IT, Health and Social Care and Sport will take place as planned. We will be in touch on Monday with arrangements for students who have external exams.

Remote Learning Principles

- Remote Learning will be set for all students from Tuesday 5 January
- Students will follow their normal school timetable for the period **remotely**
- Work will be set on google classroom by 9am each morning with details of the work students should complete that day based on their timetable. Maths work will be set using MathsWatch. Students are expected to complete all remote learning work that is set
- Some lessons will be delivered live through Google Meet for students in Year 11, Year 12 & Year 13. Subject teachers will email students from Monday 4 January if any lessons are going to be delivered live

Remote Access from Home

We want to help remove any barriers that would prevent students from engaging successfully in remote learning. If you have not already done so, please complete this [form](#) by Sunday 3 January if your child does not have reliable access to a chromebook or any other suitable device which would allow them to complete all of their remote learning. We will be in touch on Monday 4 January to arrange provision.

Free School Meals

The Christmas FSM voucher scheme has been extended to cover this period and you will receive additional vouchers next week.

Rapid Testing for Schools

We are continuing to work through the requirements of the rapid testing programme that schools have been asked to implement for secondary age children and staff. The information and guidance regarding this is constantly being updated and we are responding to this accordingly. Please be assured that NO TESTING WILL TAKE PLACE WITHOUT CONSENT. Further details regarding the testing process, the logistics and time scales for this and the collection of parental / carer consent will follow early next week. Please can I ask that you respond to this immediately in order to help us set up a testing system as quickly as possible.

We realise that this is a constantly evolving situation and that the announcements made yesterday bring further change for many of you regarding the return to school for your child. We also appreciate that this brings uncertainty and potential frustration. We will continue to communicate in response to changes and updates as quickly as we are able to and thank you in advance for your support, patience and understanding at this difficult time.

Yours faithfully

Ms C Savage
Headteacher