

31st December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

The Government has changed its guidance regarding the start of term in January 2021 and has advised that secondary schools in England should **not** fully re-open to all students and some staff following the Christmas holidays until Monday 18th January 2021.

The arrangements below will now apply:

From Monday 4th January until Friday 8 January:

- only the children of key workers and those who are deemed vulnerable should attend the academy in person
- all other students will access remote learning as described below
- any students due to sit vocational or technical exams should attend the academy at the time of their scheduled revision time and exam only. **This will affect both Year 11 and Year 10 students and further information of these times will be communicated next week.**

From Monday 11 January until Friday 15 January:

- students in Year 11 will attend the academy in person, along with the children of key workers and vulnerable children. **As aforementioned, some Year 10 students who are due to sit vocational exams that week will be expected on site too.**
- all other students will access remote learning as described below.

Unless guidance from the government and the Department for Education changes again in the meantime, we will reopen to all students in person on Monday 18 January 2021. For a general overview of these dates (**remembering the exceptions for those sitting vocational exams on our return to the academy this coming term**), please also see the attached document provided by the Department for Education this morning.

As communicated previously, please ensure your child is logged onto Microsoft Teams by 8:45am each day. Your child will continue to follow their normal timetable from home, with work uploaded and lessons delivered by staff from their classrooms at the academy. Should there be any queries or issues, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Achievement Coordinator.

I appreciate that this change to return dates to the academy is short notice and may inconvenience you. As ever, we continue to closely follow all Government guidance on COVID-19 in order to safeguard our students, staff and wider academy community.

You may also have heard that one of the reasons for the delayed return to education is to allow schools across the country to prepare for mass testing of COVID-19. Further details around this provision are yet to be finalised and are due to be confirmed early next week when schools return for the new term.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully,



Mr K Uppal
Principal

Return dates for primary and secondary schools and colleges in England

Year group	w/c 4 Jan	w/c 11 Jan	w/c 18 Jan
Exam years (years 11 and 13)	Prioritise remote education	Return to school	Continue at school
Primary (years 1-6)	Return to school with some local exceptions*	Continue at school with some local exceptions*	Continue at school with some local exceptions*
Secondary / college (years 7-10 and 12)	Prioritise remote education	Prioritise remote education	Full return to school with some local exceptions*
Primary / secondary vulnerable and critical worker	Return to school	Continue at school	Continue at school
Special school	Return to school encouraged	Continue at school	Continue at school
Alternative provision	Return to school	Continue at school	Continue at school

* In some local areas, under the contingency framework students will have remote education except for exam years and vulnerable and critical worker children. Special schools for primary years should continue to allow pupils to attend full time.