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31st December 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Re. Return to school in January 2021 (Thursday, 31st December 2020)

I hope you have all been able to enjoy a relaxing Christmas.

On Wednesday, 30th December 2020, the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson, made an announcement on the return to education settings in January 2021. The full guidance from the Department for Education can be found [here](#). This announcement has made some important changes to the arrangements for secondary schools following concerns about the continued spread of the Coronavirus, specifically amongst secondary school-aged children and in the Broxbourne area.

The number of cases across the Borough of Broxbourne remain alarmingly high – it has the highest number of cases in Hertfordshire and has the 5th highest number of cases of any area in the country. In the week ending 26th December, 1086 new cases were reported (a rise from the 834 cases reported the week before).

This situation means that previously published plans for the start of term in January have had to be amended. The plans laid out below relate to the first three weeks of the school term – this is the current intention but we will keep everything under review and will make necessary or suitable adjustments depending on how the situation develops over the coming weeks.

The plan for the start of term is as follows:

Week commencing Monday, 4th January 2021

- On-site provision will be available for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers (as per previous communication).
- Year 11 and Year 13 will have remote learning in-line with their normal school timetable.
- Years 7-10 and Year 12 will have remote learning provided for each subject.

Week commencing Monday, 11th January 2021

- On-site provision will be available for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers.
- On-site provision for all Year 11 and Year 13 students.
- Years 7-10 and Year 12 will have remote learning in-line with their normal school timetable.

Week commencing Monday, 18th January 2021

- On-site provision for all students.

Explanations

Remote learning in-line with normal school timetable (Year 11 and 13 from 4th January, Years 7-10 and 12 from 11th January) – this means that teachers will be online at the same time they would normally be teaching the

class. Lessons may be taught live via Google Meet or work will be set with teachers available to respond to questions via Google Classroom. Details will be shared on Go4Schools.

Remote learning provided for each subject (Years 7-10 and 12 from 4th January) – this means that teachers will set online work for all their classes to cover the week of learning. Work will be set on Go4Schools.

On-site provision for vulnerable pupils and children of key workers (from 4th January) – this will be based in the Media Suite and adjoining rooms and will operate between 09:00 and 15:00 each day.

On-site provision for all (Year 11 and 13 from 11th January and all from 18th January) – normal school day 08:40-15:00.

Other considerations

- January 4th 2021 is Week 1 on the two-week timetable
- Scheduled external examinations will continue to take place on-site
- Families who receive Free School Meals will be contacted about the availability of 'grab bags' from school
- The school will continue to plan for on-site COVID testing

Clearly we continue to operate in very unusual circumstances. As a school, we want nothing more than to be open as normal – the experience of face-to-face teaching cannot be replicated remotely – and it is with a heavy heart that the school is having to revert to the same arrangements we had during the first lockdown, at least for the first week of term. We are very hopeful that cases in the area start to decline so that we can stick to the published plan for a staggered return for all over the next few weeks.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish you and your families a very happy, healthy and hopeful New Year.

Best wishes



Mr Jeremy Scott
Headteacher