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18th December 2020

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Re. Start of term arrangements – January staggered start (18th December 2020)

Yesterday, the government announced that there will be a staggered start for secondary schools after the Christmas holiday. The full guidance can be read [here](#).

The reason for this decision is to support public health efforts to minimise the spread of the virus after Christmas including the setting up of testing capabilities on the school site.

During the week commencing Monday, 4th January 2021 Year 11 and Year 13 students, vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers will be expected to attend school as normal while all remaining pupils will access remote learning from home.

Year 11 and Year 13 students

For Year 11 and Year 13 students, lessons will take place as per their timetable and all normal arrangements will be in place. Students in Year 13 who have vocational examinations during the week will still attend these as per the published exam timetable.

Vulnerable pupils and children of key workers

The school will maintain on-site provision for vulnerable pupils or children of key workers in Years 7-10 and Year 12. These pupils will be organised into year group classes and will follow the remote learning that their peers will be accessing from home.

If your child is eligible for this provision, please complete the online form

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zU3T41dH3E2BVoW4T90acFEIOMD6HENMijGEfJjkBDRUR_EFRU1c5WlQ5VTBFUURERUvTk1JV1cyVi4u by Friday, 1st January 2021 at 09:00 so that we can organise these groups.

Years 7-10 and Year 12 students

All other year groups will receive remote learning through appropriate online platforms (primarily Google Classrooms/Google Meets) that will match their normal timetable (5 periods per day). Teachers will either deliver the lesson live or will be available during the lesson to provide support.

Form tutors will be available between 08:40 and 09:00 to offer support and ensure pupils are prepared for the day ahead.

Google Classroom links will be made available to ensure accessing lessons/content is as easy as possible.

We do understand that some pupils may not be able to access live lessons or complete work in the set time of the lesson, where this is the case your child should contact the teacher and form tutor via Google Classroom to ensure they are aware of this and the work can be completed at a different time.



Return of all pupils

The government has said that they expect all pupils to return to school from Monday, 11th January 2021. We will keep you updated of any developments.

Covid testing on site

We are working closely with colleagues from the Hoddesdon School Trust and local volunteering groups to explore the feasibility of setting up testing capabilities on the school's site from January 2021. I am pleased to inform you that rapid progress is being made and we are confident that testing on site will be possible which we hope will reduce the disruption caused by positive cases.

More information on this issue, including details about the type of testing and gaining parental consent will be shared as soon as possible. You will appreciate that the logistics of getting this set up for January are complicated and we still await finer details from the government before we can be more definite about our response.

Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes



Mr Jeremy Scott
Headteacher