

Friday 1st January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

I apologise for interrupting your Christmas break but the Government announcement on Wednesday and further details issued yesterday have meant that secondary schools in England have had to change arrangements for the start of the term from 4th January 2021.

Put simply, the government expectations are as follows:

Week beginning 4/1/2021.

The only students who should be in school **at 8.30am** are:

1. Children classed as vulnerable
2. Students whose parents are Critical Workers
3. Year 11 students who have BTEC examinations – at 8.30am **on Thursday 7/1/2021 ONLY**

All other students will receive their education remotely for the first week of the new term. Lessons will start for all year groups with on-line RSHE/PSE lessons 1 and 2, followed by live lessons delivered through Microsoft Teams and follow-up work on Google Classroom. All the necessary information required for your child to access this provision on a laptop, tablet or mobile phone is available in the Student section on the school website (top right hand corner). It is imperative that you let us know if your child does not have access to Teams so that we can make alternative arrangements for their education for the week.

Please ensure that you have completed the Google Form on this link

<https://forms.gle/SkLpKaNusAKTqwiU8> as soon as possible to enable us to ascertain requirements for:

- Vulnerable students
- Children of Critical Workers
- Free School Meal arrangements
- Students who cannot access online learning

Week beginning 11/1/2021

The only students who should be in school are:

1. Children classed as vulnerable - **at 8.30am**
2. Students whose parents are Critical Workers - **at 8.30am**
3. All Year 11 students - **at 8.50am**
4. Year 10 students. As they are taking BTEC Sport examinations in February, Year 10s `are considered an examination group and, as such, will be expected to attend school from Monday 11/1/2021. To enhance social distancing, **for one week only**, Year 10s must arrive at **8.30am** and enter through B Block, going straight to their form rooms. This will mean that they will finish school at **3pm**. Please see the schedule overleaf ...

Headteacher: **Mrs J Gray, MSc, NPQH**

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	Arrive	Leave
Y10	8.30	3.00
	B Block	B Block
Y11	8.50	4.00
	C Block	C Block

Week beginning 18/1/2021

All students must attend school with the following staggered start and finish times:

	Arrive	Leave
Y7	8.30	3.00
	A Block	A Block
Y8	8.35	3.05
	B Block	B Block
Y9	8.40	3.10
	A Block	A Block
Y10	8.45	3.15
	B Block	B Block
Y11	8.50	4.00
	C Block	C Block

Regarding rapid flow testing: The expectation is that secondary schools throughout England will offer tests to all students and staff on a regular basis. We are not expected to carry out the tests – merely organise the supervision, recording and associated documentation. Nevertheless, this means that much work needs to be done to set up a space; hire staff and train them to the highest standards. We will need your permission to offer a test to your child and will forward a link to the permission form once it has been issued by the DfE. I would ask you to complete it as soon as it arrives to enable us to create a workable and convenient system.

May I reiterate that, in light of the new strain of this coronavirus and the move to Tier 4, I urge our school community to adhere closely to Public Health guidelines. Please do not send your child to school if they have symptoms that could relate to COVID-19. In children, this is not limited to a persistent cough; breathlessness; fatigue; change to sense of smell or taste. In children, COVID-19 can present as a sore throat and cold-symptoms and it has been related to sickness, diarrhoea and headaches. Please err on the side of caution and arrange for a test, should your child develop these symptoms. Please re-enforce the fact that in Tier 4, children should NOT congregate outside school with **anyone** who is not from their household. They should observe the minimum 2-metre rule at all times – including to, from and outside the school gates.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued patience and support. The late notice of changes has made preparation and planning for the start of term very difficult and I appreciate it is not ideal to be contacted with so little time before the start of term. Unfortunately, with the current situation, I am sure there will be more changes to come and I will keep you updated as speedily as possible.

I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and wish you all a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Kindest regards,



Mrs J Gray MSc; NPQH

Headteacher