

18th December 2020

Dear Parents

Re: Staggered start to the Spring Term – January 2021

I hope that this letter finds you and those around you well. The government announced yesterday that the return to school in January 2021 would be staggered. This has been introduced to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 and enable planning for the roll out of mass testing in schools. This letter outlines the arrangements that apply for all pupils, please pay particular attention to the dates and when your child should return to school.

- **Monday 4th January – All of our Academies are closed due to staff training.**
- **Tuesday 5th- Friday 8th January** – The majority of pupils in **Years 7-10** will remain at home and work remotely, accessing lessons in all curriculum areas as they would in school. Details of which will be shared by the individual schools on their websites.
- **Tuesday 5th January - Year 11** will return to school as planned, plus the following pupils:
 - Pupils sitting vocational exams in Year 10. Your child's school will inform you if this applies to your child.
 - Vulnerable Children in years 7-10. Your child's school will inform you if this applies to your child.
 - Keyworker children in years 7-10. Provision will be available for your child if you have previously told us that you are a keyworker. If there has been any change to this, please contact the school your child attends.
- **Monday 11th January** – All pupils will be back in school.

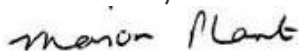
It is absolutely essential that if pupils, or anyone they live with, develops any of the symptoms of COVID-19 (including a continuous cough, temperature or fever, loss/change in taste or smell) they do not attend school and self-isolate in accordance with the Government's guidance and be tested as soon as possible. It is vital that you inform us that they have symptoms and the outcome of the test they have. In addition:

- In line with Public Health guidance, to prevent the transmission of Coronavirus, if your child is unwell (e.g., sore throat, or feeling really unwell, or muscle aches and pains), please keep them off school until they are feeling better. If they continue to be unwell and then develop a high temperature, loss or change in taste or smell or a new or worsening of a cough, then please self-isolate and get a Coronavirus test.
- **Your child must not attend school if they or someone in your household is awaiting a test result.**
- If someone in your household has a positive test, other members of their household should continue self-isolating for 10 days and get a test if they develop coronavirus symptoms.
- If a pupil in a class or bubble tests positive for coronavirus, we will inform you if your child needs to self-isolate. They do not require a test unless they subsequently develop symptoms.
- Your child must adhere to local restrictions for the tier where you live. Currently all of our schools are in tier 3.

In relation to mass testing, we are awaiting further details and will contact you again in the new year once we know more.

Thank you for your ongoing support. This has been a difficult year for all of our community, and as we continue to navigate this situation, I sincerely hope you manage to have a break over the next couple of weeks. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Christmas!

Yours sincerely



Marion Plant OBE
Chief Executive Officer

