

18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I do apologise for having to write to you during the school holidays.

Following the most recent announcement from the Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, all secondary schools in England have been instructed to implement **a staggered return to on-site learning** at the beginning of next term and to make the necessary preparations to deliver a Covid testing programme for staff and students.

In line with this, please see the details below for changes to the beginning of the new term

- **Monday 4th January 2021** will be an additional INSET day to allow for staff to plan and prepare to deliver the Covid testing programme. There **will not** be any on-site or remote learning provision that day.
- Exam year groups (Y11 & 13 and any Y10 /12 students sitting a vocational examination during the first week back), vulnerable children and children of key workers will return to on- site provision on January 5, and will be prioritised for testing as soon as the programme is established.
- **Remote education** will be provided for all other year groups (**Y7, Y8, Y9, Y10 and Y12**) during the first week of term, before a full return to school or college from 11 January 2021. Similar to the autumn term, our remote provision will be delivered via MS Teams and the 'subjects' area of the school website. We strongly recommend students adhere to the timings of their normal school timetable, including breaks and lunchtimes.
- Vocational examinations **will** go ahead as planned during the first week of term; please follow guidance already issued re times and venues.

I hope to have answered a few questions that you may have below:

### How will the testing work?

With regard to the testing arrangements, we will provide you with the details once we have received specific guidance from the government and prepared our on-site test provision. We have not yet received any information on this but I will contact you again as soon as we know more.

**Does my child have to have the test?**

In short, no. Whilst the government are advising that all children are tested, it will remain at parents' discretion as to whether they wish their child to be tested or not.

**We are not able to access online learning at home, can we have paper copies?**

Paper copies will be available for collection from **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021** from our main reception. Collection will be available for all year groups between **10am to 12pm only**.

**My child is on free school meals, will we get more vouchers if they are in Year 7-10 or Year 12?**

Yes, we will look to provide more vouchers and will write to provide further details on this after Christmas.

**The return date says 'from the 11<sup>th</sup> January', does this mean my child will return on the 11<sup>th</sup> January?**

We are awaiting further information from the Department for Education on this and I will write as soon as we know more. Online learning will continue until all children are able to return to school.

**I will require key worker provision, how do I book this?**

Please use the link on our website to book a place in key worker provision (this link will be available from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020). Please note this provision will run from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 from 9am until 3:00pm each day.

Thank you for your unrelenting support in what continues to be unprecedented times. As always, please contact me directly on [ehoward@nusa.org.uk](mailto:ehoward@nusa.org.uk) if you have any concerns related directly to your child.

Best wishes for a safe and restful Christmas

Yours Sincerely,

Emma Howard  
Head of School