

Thursday 31st December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Start of Term 2021 for Years 10 to 13

I very much hope that you and your family were able to enjoy some rest and relaxation over the festive season in these most unusual times.

As you know, the school will be closed to students on Monday 4th January for a staff INSET day.

Further to the announcement by the Government yesterday I am writing to confirm that from Tuesday 5th January we will welcome back our key workers'/ more vulnerable students only who are unable to access remote learning at home. Our key worker/ vulnerable students in Year 10 should attend school at the normal time and be in full school uniform. They should enter / exit the school using their year group door as normal and they will be kept apart from other year group bubbles. They will follow the normal timetable in terms of our staggered break and lunchtimes and will spend the day undertaking their remote learning in their allocated room which for Year 10 is DR2.

For students in Year 11 and Year 13 we intend to provide live streamed learning from Tuesday 5th January until Friday 8th January with lessons taking place at the usual timetabled time. These sessions will then be suspended as the students will be on Study Leave from Monday 11th January whilst they take their mock examinations. We also have students taking external examinations over the next couple of weeks some of which start straight away: Year 13 start us off on Wednesday with Business BTec and Health and Social Care BTec followed by Year 11 Music BTec on Thursday and Year 13 Business BTec on Friday. Full school uniform is required from Year 11. We wish all students taking external examinations over the coming weeks every success and the best of luck.

For students in Year 10 and Year 12 we intend to start live streamed learning from Thursday 7th January. For Tuesday and Wednesday, we will provide remote learning for them. We aim to provide around 4 hours a day of remote learning each day. If your son / daughter should have any concerns or questions about the work set they should contact their teacher through Teams only and **not** through staff email. This contact will only be responded to from 08:00 to 16:00 on their working day (bearing in mind some teachers are part time). Our teachers will be teaching the examination year groups through live streamed lessons and as well as setting remote learning for students in Years 7-9 and preparing other materials so I ask for your understanding in this matter.

I remind all students that next week is Week A. I should also like to point out to Year 10 families that the **Sixth Form Application** deadline has been revised to **29th January**.

As a school we have maintained an attendance rate of 95% in spite of some of the cases of self-isolation in Years 7, 8 and 9, due to positive test results.

I should also like to point out that not a single day of teaching was lost to any student in Years 10-13 due to our strict Covid control measures and our students' compliance with them across the school in Years 7-13.

In these unsettling times we will endeavour to start the new year in the same determined and positive way that as a school community we prevailed through the first term of this academic year. Once again, I should like to take this opportunity to say thank you for your continued support and understanding.

I hope that you and your family have a very happy and successful new year.

With my best wishes to you and your family

Philip Stack
Headteacher