

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**Start of Term 2021 for Years 7 to 9**

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 4<sup>th</sup> January for a staff INSET day.

Further to the announcement by the Government yesterday I am writing to confirm that from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January we will welcome back our key workers'/ more vulnerable students only who are unable to access remote learning at home.

For the rest of our students in Years 7-9 we intend to provide remote learning for the full nine days that they are studying at home before returning to school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. 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 examination year groups live streamed lessons and as well as preparing other materials so I ask for your understanding in this matter.

In addition, we will endeavour to hold a telephone conversation with you at some point in the first week back and an online streamed mentor session at 13:20 for half of the mentor group at two points over the two weeks they are undertaking remote learning. The mentor will advise their mentees through SMHW as to which sessions they are expected to participate in over the next fortnight.

Our key worker/ vulnerable students 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 in their 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 rooms which are as follows:

Year 7 IT5                      Year 8 MS1                      Year 9 IT4

I remind all students that next week is Week A.

With regard to the return of **Activities Week** option forms, please be advised that the return date has been extended to the 20th 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