



18 December 2020

Dear parents and carers

National announcement about the start of term in January and the rapid testing programme.

The Government made two significant announcements yesterday that impact on the arrangements for the start of the new term. The first is a change to the arrangements for students returning to school in January. The second is around testing for staff and students in the light of a positive coronavirus test.

We are waiting for the detailed Guidance and training on the testing arrangements, which we expect to have for the start of the new term. To plan our response and train staff accordingly we have had to make some changes to our school calendar. I hope you will be understanding of our desire and intention to get this right and implement the necessary arrangements well when the detail has been provided by the Government. We are expecting the detailed Guidance over the Christmas period so I will write to you with more detail before term starts.

Start of term (January 2021)

Please note the revised arrangements in the light of the Government's announcement:

The school will be closed on Monday 4 January (this is not a change and was always our plan).

- The school will be closed to students on Tuesday 5 January for staff planning and training.
- All Year 11s should be in school from Wednesday 6 January for face-to-face lessons.
- Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will **not** be school for face-to-face lessons until Monday 11 January.
- Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will have remote lessons, form time and feedback in the first week.

Some students in 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be asked into school where they meet the Government's criteria. We will contact you directly about this if it applies to you.

A day will be added to the school calendar to ensure students get their full annual entitlement. **The extra day will be Wednesday 21 July** – this will be the last day of the school year.

Rapid testing programme

The Government has announced that secondary-age students are being prioritised for COVID-19 testing from January as part of a national programme. I will write to you again when we have more detail on how the testing programme will work and when it will start. Testing will require parental consent. I will write to you regarding that when we have full detail of the **programme**.

Arrangements for bringing bikes to school in January

In my letter a few days ago, I referred to revised arrangements for bringing bikes to school in January. As a reminder, bikes will not be allowed on school site without a student being recorded on our Bike Register. Due to the national changes in the return to schools the Bike Register will come into effect from Monday 18 January therefore students will not be able to bring their bike to school until that point.

Let me end by thanking you for your support and wishing you all the very best for a restful, peaceful and blessed Christmas. I will be in touch again before term starts with the expected detail outlined above.

Yours faithfully,

Kieran Larkin
Headteacher

CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING