

30<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear parents and carers

## **Updated national announcement about the start of term in January**

It has been announced today that Wigan along with the whole of Greater Manchester will be placed in Tier 4 from 00:01 on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December. This comes along with a lot of other regions in the country being placed in higher tiers.

As part of the increased COVID-19 infection rate nationally, the Government has announced a further change to the start of term that affects all secondary schools in all year groups in England. This letter confirms the key dates specific to Lowton Church of England High School. They are as follows:

- All year groups will receive remote learning from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.
- Year 11 will now return to school for face-to-face teaching from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January.
- Years 7, 8, 9, and 10 will now return to school for face-to-face teaching from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

The school will be closed on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January (this is not a change and was always our plan) and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January will be a staff training day.

Some students in all year groups will be asked to be in school from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, where they meet the Government's criteria. If this applies to your child, we will contact you personally by Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

There are some additional arrangements for schools in *some* Tier 4 areas with the highest infection rates nationally in the South East of England. These *additional* arrangements **do not apply to Wigan schools at this point.**

## **Rapid testing programme**

You will have seen a lot in the media over the last couple of weeks about the Government's announcement regarding the implementation of rapid testing for staff and students.

We are still waiting for the full details and resources to deliver this and so I will write to you again next week once we have received the full details and are able to confirm our plans accordingly.

On the last day of this most challenging of years let me end by thanking you for your support and wishing you all the very best for a better, healthier, blessed and, in due course, more normal 2021.

Yours faithfully

**Kieran Larkin**  
Headteacher

**CARING, LEARNING AND SUCCEEDING**