

18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

You may have watched various announcements from the Department of Education over the last week and I wanted to write to you, prior to Christmas to offer some clarity. This will also mean that you can make preparations over the Christmas break ready for an unusual start to the new academic term.

The Government announced on Friday that schools will have a staggered start to the new term in January. The Government stated that primary school children, students in Years 11 and 13 and other targeted students will return to school immediately after Christmas but other secondary-aged students will return the following week (11<sup>th</sup> January). These students will be expected to be educated remotely.

The plans for January will be as follows:

### **Monday 4th January**

The Government has informed schools that an additional Inset Day can be taken to help prepare for testing, therefore, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January will now be an Inset Day. This is to allow staff time to plan for remote learning and the onsite testing provision. No students will be expected on site and there will be no remote learning available.

### **Tuesday 5th – Friday 8th January**

**Year 11 and 13** students will return to school as planned. We will also be open for students of critical workers and a small number of targeted students. **Y11 students only:** Registration and Login details for GCSE Pod can be found on the homepage of the website under 'Remote Learning'.

### **Tuesday 5th – Friday 8th January**

**Year 12** students will be taught remotely and access live lessons. A video guide is available on the home page of the website [Click here](#) Students will be registered by teachers during form time and at the beginning of each lesson. Some Year 12 students will undertake external exam and therefore will attend the Academy on those days.

### **Tuesday 5th – Friday 8th January**

**Years 7, 8, 9, and 10** will be taught remotely following their normal timetable on Microsoft TEAMS. Students will be registered by teachers during form time and at the beginning of each lesson. **Y10 students only:** Registration and Login details for GCSE Pod can be found on the homepage of the website under 'Remote Learning'.

### **Monday 11th January onwards**

All students to return to the Academy as normal.

I am truly sorry that some students will miss out on face-to-face teaching in January but I believe the underlying reason for the staggered start is to halt a possible rise in infections after Christmas. For this reason, I believe it is best that we are cautious.

### **Remote learning**

Most of our students are now familiar with accessing lessons remotely; lessons will be available via Microsoft TEAMS. Students will be sent TEAMS' links via Class Charts. If you would like more information on how to access remote lessons, we will be running two sessions for parents/carers. The first session will take place on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 10:00 a.m. and the second meeting at 16:00 p.m. on the same day. The links for these meetings will be available on our website on the homepage under 'Remote Learning'. You can also find an updated parent and student guide on the same page. Please read this carefully as it has been updated. Students accessing learning remotely will follow their normal timetable and are required to log on at the time their lesson would normally begin.

It is imperative that students attend all lessons as they have already missed a significant amount of learning. Therefore, students will be registered at the start of each session. This will also allow us to monitor student well-being and ensure the safeguarding of all students.

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In order to support remote learning provision, within this pack, we have re-issued:

- Student Timetables
- Online Learning Account Details
- Class Charts Login Details.

### Free School Meals

A parent text will be sent to parents/carers of students eligible for free school meals to ask if you require a food parcel for the week 5th January – 8th January. You will need to collect the parcel from the Academy on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January between 10:00 and 14:00 p.m.** If you require a food parcel, can you please ensure you email [info@ASTN.uk](mailto:info@ASTN.uk) by 15:00 p.m. on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December**. Please do not reply to the text message as we will not receive this information.

### Devices

It is vital that your child has access to a device to complete their remote learning; this cannot be a mobile phone. We have issued a number of devices out to students in need of one but if your child still does not have access to a laptop, please email [info@ASTN.uk](mailto:info@ASTN.uk) by 15:00 p.m. on **Monday 28<sup>th</sup> December**.

Those students/parents that are eligible and who have confirmed they require a laptop will be able to collect their digital devices in the following allocation slots on the **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of January**:

Year:	Time:
<b>7</b>	10.00 – 11.00 a.m.
<b>8</b>	11.15 – 12.15 p.m.
<b>9</b>	12.30 – 13.30 p.m.
<b>10</b>	13.45 – 14.45 p.m.

These devices are given out on a lease agreement and should be returned when students return to school. These can be collected for the PODs at the from to the Academy building. Please ensure when onsite that you follow government guidance on social distancing and face coverings.

### Testing

You may have seen it announced this week that students and teachers will have access to mass testing from January. Specifically, that means that staff will be tested weekly (with results taking 30 minutes) and students who are identified as close contacts of someone testing positive, can be tested for 7 consecutive days and remain in school if they test negative.

This testing would be optional, but those not consenting would be subject to the normal 10-day self-isolation. We await further information on how the testing will be rolled out. Once we have a confirmed final plan, we will write to you again.

Finally, I hope this this letter helps to settle any concerns that you have over the announcements made by the Government. We will ensure to update you with any further information as soon as we can. I hope you all have a lovely Christmas with your families.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Sing  
Headteacher