

January 2<sup>nd</sup> 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Since the announcements from the Secretary of State for Education on 30<sup>th</sup> December and my letter to you on 31<sup>st</sup> December, there has now been a further update. This is in relation to remote learning for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 between Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January. It was initially stated that these students would not access remote learning, however, we have now been informed that they will access 'some remote learning'. These last-minute changes are not ideal, however, I do understand the need to balance the safety of students, by staggering the start to the term, whilst ensuring they do not miss out on valuable education and have access to quality remote learning provision.

The plans for January will be as follows:

### Monday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January

**Years 11, 12 and 13** 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.

**Year 7, 8, 9 and 10** will access some remote education. They will attend registration via TEAMS at the normal time and then focus on English, Maths, Science and Personal Development (4 lessons per day). Further details will be on the website on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January,

We will **ONLY** 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'.

### Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January

**Years 7, 8, 9, and 10** will be access remote education 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'. **Year 11, Y12 and 13** students will continue to be taught remotely and access live lessons.

### Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January onwards

All students to return to the Academy as normal. The government has stated that this will continually under review.

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.



In the letter sent to you last week, we re-issued:

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

### Free School Meals

A parent text was 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. Thank you to all of you who responded; you will be able to collect the parcel from the Academy on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January between 10:00 and 14:00 p.m.**

### 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 to students in need of one. Thank you for your responses.

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 front 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 last 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 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. On behalf of everyone at the Academy, we wish you a Happy New Year!

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Sing  
Headteacher