



Dear Parents/ Carers,

## Updated start to the Spring Term 2021

Following the government's announcements yesterday, we would like to outline our response.

4<sup>th</sup> January – This will continue to be a PD Day, now to include mass testing training. No students are therefore to attend.

### 5<sup>th</sup> January – 8<sup>th</sup> January

The school will operate remote lessons on Teams for all students, following their timetables; a gentle reminder that this is a 'week 2'. Teams can be accessed on multiple platforms, including most smartphones. We will arrange for timetables to be sent electronically to all students on Monday.

For vulnerable students, and students of critical workers (both defined below)\*, the school will be operating a normal school day if required – beginning promptly at 8:50 am and finishing at 3:15 pm.

During this week we will be finalising our plans for COVID testing, as per the government guidelines. We recognise that this may bring up many questions and concerns for you; please allow us the chance to complete our planning on this and communicate these to you; we should have this in place by Wednesday of next week. Let me assure that no testing will take place at school until any consent is sought from the appropriate person/people and we have met all the various stipulations.

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

Year 11 will return for face-to-face lessons. Year 13 will begin PPE exams (Mrs Morris has emailed students separately). All other year groups will continue to have remote lessons on Teams, and the lessons for vulnerable students and students of critical workers will continue in school.

### 18 January onwards

The school will re-open for all students.

### Food

The school intends to serve lunch as usual from 5<sup>th</sup> January. We will monitor the catering situation and may have to make changes based on need. From 18<sup>th</sup> January you should certainly expect a normal service.



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For those students entitled to Free School Meals and will be at home, we are awaiting further instructions and will update you when we receive this information.

Wishing you a happy new year when it arrives later.

Love, hope and peace to all families.

Matt Baker & the Leadership Team

#### \* Critical workers

We have a list of critical worker parent/carers from the March lockdown, however the list has increased. It would be helpful for us for students coming into school who are adding to this list to bring their proof of this with them, so as to update our spreadsheets as necessary.

#### **Vulnerable children and young people**

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
  - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
  - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
  - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
  - those living in temporary accommodation
  - those who are young carers
  - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
  - care leavers
  - others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

#### **Critical workers**

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

### **Health and social care**

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

### **Education and childcare**

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

### **Key public services**

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

### **Local and national government**

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

- the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants and food), including in government agencies and arm's length bodies

### **Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery

- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

### **Public safety and national security**

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defense civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defense and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

### **Transport and border**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure through which supply chains pass.

### **Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors