



5 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Update COVID-19 Response to the Prime Minister's statement on national lockdown

I am, once again, writing to give you an update in response to COVID-19 and the announcement made yesterday evening by the Prime Minister. This is the second day of us being open to the children identified as vulnerable, those with an EHCP and children of critical (key) workers as well as putting in place live and pre-recorded lessons in real time onto Microsoft Teams. We appreciate that providing for education at home is a challenge and that IT connections do not always work as expected or hoped for; we share your frustrations and wish to thank you for your patience whilst we resolve operational problems with uploading multi-media presentations and other learning content.

1. Remote Learning

From tomorrow, Wednesday 6 January we will move all teaching and learning to remote learning following live timetabled lesson sessions. Therefore, it is important that you child logs onto Microsoft Teams by 9.05am to begin their first lesson and follows their timetable for the rest of the day, remembering their break and lunch time sessions. The format of lessons may vary from fully live teaching sessions; live introductions to uploaded work; pre-recorded lessons; voice over PowerPoint lessons with worksheets, quizzes, tasks and assessments. Your child will receive a notification from either their usual teacher or another member of the same subject, so they have a point of contact and communication for the duration of each lesson. However, if a member of staff is unable to be available for a live session, they will post a notice to that effect which is why your child may have contact from a different teacher.

We know that not all pupils have access to IT devices and the internet, so as we did in the first national lockdown, we will provide paper-based packs of work for pupils who are unable to access our work on Microsoft Teams. We do have a number of Government provided laptops which we are intended for those families who face challenges with providing IT and accessing the internet; in line with Government guidance, we are prioritising Pupil Premium pupils followed by those facing challenges in Years 11, 13, 12 and 10 as examination year groups.

2. Examination series 2021

The announcement by the Prime Minister stated that examinations will not be taken this summer, yet, no further clarification has been given although I am aware that there is to be an announcement by Michael Gove, former Education Secretary, at some point tomorrow. As we have done before, we will work to provide the best possible outcome for our pupils whatever system Government put in place. I wish to encourage our pupils and students to continue with their studies as the continuation of education is priority. We are still planning for BTEC examinations this week and next week.

3. T&L in school for vulnerable and children of Critical (Key) Workers

As we move to enforced closure but remaining open for vulnerable and children of critical (key) workers we are moving to full remote learning from Wednesday 6 January 2021 so all pupils can follow their individual timetable in real time; this applies to all pupils who attend school from tomorrow. Therefore, pupils attending tomorrow should expect to work on a laptop or computer to access their lessons in the same way as those pupils who are working from home. We will be creating individual bubble structures within the separate year group zones to best manage any fluctuation in numbers of pupils attending and to ensure there are members of staff available to cover a daily rota. Pupils will remain with their year group each day for all lessons, break and lunchtime. The table on the following page shows how bubbles are to be re-structured and what the timings of the day are to be for each year group:

Bubble	Year Group	Maximum number of pupils	Location	Start	Timetable					Finish
					1	2 showing Break	3	4 showing lunch	5	
7A	7	20	EN01	8.50		10.35 to 10.50		12.20 to 12.50 (C)		14.45
7B	7	20	EN09	8.50		10.35 to 10.50		12.20 to 12.50 (C)		14.45
8A	8	15	BS01	8.45		10.20 to 10.35		12.20 to 12.50 (B)		14.50
9A	9	15	MA01	8.40		10.05 to 10.20		12.50 to 13.20 (C)		14.55
KS4 A	10 & 11	15	IT01	8.35		10.50 to 11.05		13.20 to 13.50 (C)		15.00
DSP KS3 A	7, 8 & 9	6	SEND Base	8.30		10.45 to 11.15		12.00 to 13.00		14.50
DSP KS3 B	7, 8 & 9	8	AS02	8.30		10.45 to 11.15		12.00 to 13.00		14.50
DSP KS4	10 & 11	12	Main Hall	8.30		11.00 to 11.20		12.50 to 13.50		14.50

Pupils can come to school in non-uniform. Where there are timetabled PE lessons, pupils will be given the opportunity for exercise and/or participate in team games/sport depending upon the availability and expertise of members of staff. Both Café Beans and Café Cosmopolitan will be open for pupils to be able to purchase food and drink during break and lunchtime.

4. Bus services

We are working with the school bus service to provide a continuation of service but this will depend on the numbers of pupils needing to use a bus to get to school; this will be under review and subject to changes which may for example, include some buses not running and others broadening their route.

5. IT access prioritisation

As you know, we were provided with a set of laptops under the Government Scheme to support children with access to Remote Learning over the Internet. We are prioritising pupils who are Pupil Premium in all year groups and then Year 11, followed by Year 13, followed by Year 12 and then Year 10. There is concern regarding the continuation of education for all pupils but there is a lack of clarity regarding what is required for publication of exam results this year for Years 11 and 13. Mr Field, Assistant Headteacher is overseeing the distribution of devices and I wish to ask for your continued patience as we work through our prioritisation list.

6. Lateral Flow Tests

It is the intention to continue with the set up for Lateral Flow Tests; the two health care professionals we have recruited are working with our Business Operations Manager on the setting up of our testing facility and completing the inventory of the kit we have been sent. I am hopeful that we can begin testing from Monday 11 January 2021; the testing will be for members of staff and the pupils who are in school next week, once we have permissions/consent in place

I am aware that the Prime Minister is speaking again this afternoon and as before, some of what he says may have bearing upon points I have raised in this letter. If you have any concerns about any of what is contained in this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. As always, I wish to thank you for your continued support as we work effectively together in these challenging times.

Yours sincerely



Ian Morrel
Headteacher