

18 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As we come to the end of what has been a term like no other, I want to thank you for your support of the academy during this period and reassure you that, whatever the challenges, we remain committed to maintaining a safe and stimulating learning experience for all of the students.

You may be aware that yesterday, the Department of Education issued a range of new guidance to schools regarding (1) staggered starts to education in January and (2) testing of students and staff. Yet again, the Department of Education has issued detailed guidance without consulting with schools and leaving leaders little time to read and plan.

Below is an outline of what we do know will be in place for students from Tuesday, 5 January, when the academy re-opens for students. A reminder that Monday, 4 January is a teacher training day.

From Tuesday, 5 January:

Attending the academy:

- Year 11, 12 and 13 students will attend school as normal, as prioritised examination year groups
- vulnerable children and the children of critical workers (we will be in touch on Monday, 4 January with further detail)

Remote learning

All other year groups: Year 7, 8, 9 and 10

It is expected that all year groups will return to face-to-face teaching from Monday, 11 January. Note: students will not need to have had a test in order to return to school on 11 January.

Throughout, all children and young people should continue to comply with the rules set out for the tier they are in, and parents are asked to help ensure their children are following these rules. That particularly includes those related to mixing with other households when they are not at school and when they are travelling to and from educational settings.

I will be writing to you again on Monday, 4 January to confirm these details and provide any other information that may have been updated.

Yours sincerely

**MRS D J BUNN**  
**Head of Academy**

**MR S JONES**  
**FMAT CEO**