

Important Bulletin for Parents and Students Years 7&8 – 1/1/21

Start of Term arrangements

As you would have seen in the press, the Department for Education has made a change to the start of term for all students. For clarity I have summarised the arrangements below.

Monday 4 th January	Training Day (Reception will be open to respond to queries)
Tuesday 5 th – Friday 8 th January	*All students remote learning at home
Monday 11 th – Friday 15 th January	Year 11 and 13 back in school *Years 7,8,9,10&12 continue to learn from home
Monday 18 th January	All students are back at school.

*School is open for children of key workers who cannot attend work without this provision. It will also be open for students identified by the school as potentially needing to be on site, these families will be contacted individually.

If your child does not have a device or access to wifi or if you are a critical worker and your work is critical to the Covid-19 response and you need on-site provision for your child to allow you to attend work, please let us know by completing the form on the link below.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yu1GLt0A20uVy2z1Ys-7pIG43ZSeighOpNg0xSQYNmZUMUITMzdCWVMxRU1PUUY3UzRLUVRUMkpSTy4u>

Government definitions of critical workers can be found here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Remote learning information

Students will need to access our Check-In App in MS Teams before 9am – they can do this by clicking into their Team , finding the **'REGISTER NOW'** channel down the left hand side and click in on Check-In before 9am.

We have produced a **NEW** timetable for students in Year 7 and 8 for this week which is **different** to their usual one. Please go through with them the instructions and timetable emailed out on the last day of term (copies also on the website) . It is important that they keep to their **normal** lesson times. Students will then access their lessons via the **subject channels** down the left hand side of MS Teams

COVID-19 testing for students

You will also have read that the Government is intending to roll out a programme of on-site asymptomatic coronavirus testing for secondary schools from January using the new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'.

The Department for Education have stated that it will be optional for schools to take on this responsibility, but we as a school we believe that in the long run this will help us to minimise Covid cases in school and minimise the disruption caused by staff and students needing to self-isolate. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school/college safely. Up to one third of people who have coronavirus experience no symptoms. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible.

We only received guidance for these arrangements over the Christmas break and you will appreciate that as a result planning has been challenging. We have not, as yet, received any testing kits and we still need to find and set up a suitable space and recruit and train staff to run the testing room. It is important that we set this initiative up quickly but also carefully so that it fulfils the required objective and ensures staff and students' welfare and safety. We will send home more information regarding this next week.