

Letter to parents/carers - 31 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Important update - further changes to the start of term arrangements for secondary age students (Year 7 through to Year 13)

You will have seen that the Prime Minister yesterday announced additional measures to combat the spread of Covid-19, including new guidance to secondary schools about the start of next term. This now means that:

- **All secondary year groups (Year 7 to Year 13)** will work remotely from home **between 5 and 8 January 2021**
- **Year 11 and Year 13 only** will return to school from **Monday 11 January**
- **Years 7, 8, 9 10 and 12** will have remote learning provided by the school from 5 to 15 January and will return to school for in-person learning from **Monday 18 January**

Your child's school will be in touch next week with details of how the remote learning will operate and how to contact us should you need help with accessing the necessary technology. Your son/daughter should be ready to start their school work from home during normal school hours from Tuesday 5 January.

Currently, we believe all planned school and external assessments such as BTEC and IFS will go ahead. Schools will be in touch next week to confirm arrangements.

You may also have seen further press coverage in relation to mass testing for Covid 19 in secondary schools for students and staff. We expect further information from the Department of Education next week about how this will be rolled out in practice. As soon as we have more details, we will share them with you.

Children of essential workers and vulnerable children in Years 7-11

As we did during the spring lockdown, we will make provision for vulnerable children and the children of essential workers in Years 7-11 between 5-15 January. However, we ask you to only request a place if absolutely necessary, as emergency provision, as the guidance is for us to keep numbers to a minimum on public health grounds. There is a form on your child's school website for you to contact us, should you require this provision on all or any of the days 5-15 January. Please sign up by 9am on 4 January to request a place for next week and by 9am on Friday 8 January to request a place for the week beginning 11 January.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy new year. Stay safe and we look forward to seeing the young people again next term.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Helen Price'.

Dr Helen Price
Executive Headteacher