



18th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure you will have heard the announcement, which came in yesterday, regarding the closure of secondary schools, to students in Years 7-10, for the first week of the Spring term (January 4th-8th 2021). As you can imagine, the timescale within which we have to react to this guidance is impossible to fully implement before our closure commences in just a few hours. In view of this, I would like to apologise for the fact that we will have to continue to send communications out, where necessary, to ensure a smooth start to the Spring term for students and staff...at whatever point that starts for each individual student.

Unless there are further changes to the guidance from The Department for Education (DfE); **Year 11 will attend all lessons, as normal, from Monday 4th January 2021.** The mock examination programme will also proceed as planned.

Students in Years 7-10 will follow their normal timetable remotely. Lessons will be remotely broadcasted via our TeachStream facility. Please ensure that your daughter is set-up and waiting for each lesson to start. My colleagues will still have to move around the school to teach from their usual classrooms as they will also be supervising a small number of children from the families of critical workers on-site. Please ask your daughter to be patient when waiting for sessions to start as it will take a little time to log-in and set-up teaching resources for each lesson.

In terms of what constitutes a 'Critical Worker'; the DfE have published clarification below. We will be sending out a survey in order to establish which children are from families of critical workers and whether they would like to request a place for their Year 7-10 daughter in the first week back. Please respond to this survey if you need to reserve a place for your child. Wherever possible, please do keep your daughter at home as it will reduce the likelihood of transmission on-site for that first week back after Christmas. As lessons are being remotely broadcasted; your daughter will receive the same education if she is able to work from home.

In view of not having had the time to gather information on who will be at school on Monday 4th January 2021; please ask your daughter to bring a packed lunch each day of the first week back if she is on-site. **School lunches will only be available to Year 11 students.** The parents/carers of students in Years 7-10, who are in receipt of free school meals, will be issued with vouchers to assist with lunch arrangements whether the student is on-site or at home. These vouchers will be issued on 31st December 2020 via the Wonde process as previously.

Please note that we have decided not to continue with the teenage booster vaccination for Year 9 students on Wednesday 6th January. New dates will be arranged and further information will follow.

All that remains is to wish you, your family and friends a wonderful Christmas and New Year and to thank you so much for all your support.

Yours faithfully



Chris Keating
Headteacher

Definition of a critical worker

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) 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

- or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, 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 Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak)
- 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

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, including those working on transport systems 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