1 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We do hope you have had a restful, if more limited, Christmas and have been able to have some fun despite the new restrictions.

**Change to Start of Term, January 2021**
In the light of increased Covid 19 cases and escalating infection rates nationally, the Government has made the decision to delay the start of face-to-face learning in schools by a further week.  At the current time, therefore, we are working on a start for Years 11 on Monday 11th January and other year groups on Monday 18th January 2021.

All students are expected to work at home, following their normal timetable on Microsoft Teams.  Many lessons will be live streamed, some may have work posted , but all students must attend their lessons from school or at home during normal timetabled periods. **Online teaching on Teams will commence on Tuesday 5th January 2021 for all year groups**: staff will be attending a school INSET on 4th January to prepare for the extended remote learning period.

**Year 7-11 -remote learning following the timetable for Week A with following times**:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Registration | 8:45 - 9:10 am |
| Period 1 | 9:10 - 10:10 am |
| Period 2 | 10:10 - 11:10 am |
| Break | 11:10 - 11:30 am |
| Period 3 | 11:30 - 12:30 am |
| Lunch | 12:30 - 1:15 pm |
| Period 4 | 1:15 - 2:15 pm |
| Period 5 | 2:15 - 3:15 pm |

Please note that **registration is a compulsory part of the day and attendance for this and for each lesson is still recorded on our registration system by teachers for each lesson**. Non-attendance will continue to be followed up by our usual systems.

**Access to Technology**

We are aware that many families have a limited number of devices within the household and that this can be challenging when teaching is delivered 'live'. We have received a number of devices from the DfE and have issued these to students where a need has been identified. We do still have a limited number of devices and hope to be receiving more very soon. The expectation of the DfE is that devices are made available to those most in need and so the criteria for access to a device is:  if your child is entitled to free school meals or has been entitled to free school meals in the past six years -theses students will be prioritised for the loan of technology. However, if your child does not have access to a device or you do not have access to wi-fi please let us know by completing the form below and we will look at available support. If we are unable to offer a device, your child may be invited to work onsite to ensure they do not fall behind with their work.

In anticipation of live learning please also download the Teams app onto a smart phone as an alternative to using a laptop for access.

Please complete if you have limited technology access to support home learning:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=B_HLllWrskmw7Ov9Af8xPDz80q7IkhZMgJ-72fEjTWpUQTRWU1BDMjRMTEFaNjFaTFBEWUZFQUVSOC4u>

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | [Fill | Request for technology to support Remote Learning -January 2021](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=B_HLllWrskmw7Ov9Af8xPDz80q7IkhZMgJ-72fEjTWpUQTRWU1BDMjRMTEFaNjFaTFBEWUZFQUVSOC4u)Please complete details below if you are in need of additional support to allow access to technology for remote learning.forms.office.com |

**Critical Worker and Vulnerable Student Child-care**

With this extension to remote learning (1 week for Year 11 students and 2 weeks for Year 7-10 students) we are aware that parents who are critical workers may now decide to access the support of on-site supervision. If you have not already booked childcare but would now like to access this as a critical worker or parent of a vulnerable child, please complete this form by mid-day, Sunday 3rd January. You will be e-mailed further details regarding start times on Sunday.

Please complete this form if your child will require on-site supervision:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=B_HLllWrskmw7Ov9Af8xPDz80q7IkhZMgJ-72fEjTWpUMkZTS0JJWUlBS1NONzJDMDZRWUROWlBBWC4u>

**Year 11 Mocks**

Year 11 students will be able to sit their mocks when they return to school. We intend to run the exam timetable as planned in the week beginning 11th January and following the published dates from 11th January onwards. Those exams scheduled for 4th January will have them postponed by two weeks to the week beginning 25th January on the equivalent day. A new timetable will be published and shared with Year 11 parents, carers and students.

**Year 11 Travel and Tourism Exam**

Current guidance regarding the Year 11 Travel and Tourism examination scheduled for Friday 8th January is that this will go ahead as scheduled. We will be communicating with Travel and Tourism students separately on Monday 4th January regarding arrangements for the exam.

**In-School Lateral Flow Testing**
In a further email next week, you will also receive important information about the national lateral flow Covid testing programme that will take place in schools from 5th January 2021. Tests will be voluntary, but we strongly recommend that you support the testing programme so that we can keep our students and school staff safe. Identifying people with the virus is a key priority in doing just this so that those who are asymptomatic, but test positive, can self-isolate and not remain the source of further infection in the school community. We will of course update you during the first week of term with details of the programme (which will include collecting consent from parents/ carers to test their child) and also with details of when face-to-face teaching will resume.

Thank you for your continued support at this time. Managing a school during a pandemic is quite a tricky business! We won’t get everything right, but we are doing our level best to give you the information you need when we are in possession of it.

Kind regards

Ms S Kennedy

Deputy Headteacher