



18 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Just when you thought that the end of term was here and we had no further news to impart, the DfE play a blinder and announce some pretty huge changes.

After spending the past ten days threatening schools with legal action for wanting to resort to remote learning, we are now instructed to offer remote learning for the first week back after Christmas to years 7, 8, 9, 10 and part of year 12. The following extract is taken from the guidance which I received at 6.25pm yesterday evening on the last day of term:

Schools with secondary-age pupils

Schools with secondary-age pupils are encouraged to prepare for a phased start back to planned on-site provision in the first week of term to allow for these pupils to be tested ahead of normal schooling resuming.

This should involve:

- full-time on-site provision from the first day of term for all vulnerable children, the children of critical workers and pupils in exam year groups (primarily years 11 and 13)
- as many secondary-age pupils and staff as possible being offered 2 lateral flow device tests, starting in the week commencing 4 January, prioritising staff, vulnerable children, the children of critical workers and pupils in years 11 and 13
- remote education being provided for all other pupils when they are at home, and in line with [local tier restrictions](#)
- all pupils back in school for face-to-face education on 11 January
- Pupils prioritised for on-site provision should be kept in consistent bubbles in the week commencing 4 January whilst they await test results. Outside of school, they should continue to adhere to [local tier restrictions](#).
- Vocational exams scheduled for the week of 4 January will go ahead as planned

As well as the above, we will also expect Year 12 students who have external examinations during the week beginning 11 January to attend from 4 January as well.

This is in order to ensure that we have prepared them as well as possible for their examinations given the circumstances.

Some other children will be allowed into the Academy if they qualify under the following criteria:

Vulnerable children and young people including those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example, due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)

However, we urge all students not in an examination year, where possible, to stay at home.

If you are a critical worker, please email Mrs Williams at ejwilliams@srpa.co.uk from your work email address. This will allow us to be prepared for the coming term and for our records to be updated accordingly.

I do not intend to bombard you with any more of the detail at this stage but, in short, we look forward to seeing Years 11, some of 12 and all of 13 back from 4 January 2021 and we will contact you again with more details of the testing regime and with a consent form for you to complete to allow us to administer lateral flow testing at the Academy for your child. We will also contact you if we feel your child qualifies to attend



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school in other year groups based on our records. We hope to have this completed by 2 January when you should receive further contact.

I am attending a meeting with the DfE today at 1pm. I hope to know more afterwards and will convey our plans in due course.

For the final time this year, best wishes for the festive season.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Head Teacher



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