



Our Reference: KH/GHR

31st December 2020

Dear parents/carers

Update - return to school January 2021

Further to the announcement on Wednesday by Education Secretary, Gavin Williamson, students will not return to school next week. There will be some exceptions, for example students with Education Health Care Plans. The school will be in direct contact with you if this applies to your child. Also, children whose parents are critical workers can request a school place (see below).

While school will be open as normal for all staff from next week, the impact on students is as follows:

- Students in all year groups will learn from home and not come into school **from 4th January**. They will follow their normal school timetable. All lessons will be set on SMHW and will take place either through live lessons, recorded content (e.g. Loom) or SHMW tasks.
- Year 11 and 13 students will return to school from **Monday 11th January**, with all other year groups returning from **Monday 18th January**.
- Live Lessons – please note that given the late notice of the announcement by the DfE, our teachers are now re-planning lessons for next week. Some activities or topics that have already been planned are not appropriate for remote learning. We will aim to introduce live lessons as soon as possible, but please note that this will not be for every lesson.
- Due to the growth in positive Coronavirus cases nationally and locally, and combined with the change to Tier 4 in our area, students are advised to stay at home to reduce the risk of transmission. Parents who are critical workers can request a place if necessary. If you have not done so already, please inform the school using [this form](#) if you are a critical worker and require your child/children to attend school. For students attending school from w/c 4th January, please ensure they bring a packed lunch, unless they are entitled to free school meals in which case lunch will be provided.
- Face-to-face lessons for all year groups will commence on **Monday 18th January**. Further details will be provided at a later date regarding arrangements for the return to school.

Remote Learning

Lessons will take place using a combination of Show My Homework (SMHW), recorded content and 'live lessons' using Microsoft Teams. Students should follow their normal timetable. From Wednesday 6th January each day will begin with a form period from 8.30 led by form tutors and hosted using Microsoft Teams. We would welcome your support in ensuring your child engages with all remote learning that is set.



Year 11 GCSE ICT – Wednesday 13th January 2021

This exam will take place as scheduled.

Year 13 mock exams – w/c 11th January 2021

Year 13 mock exams will take place as scheduled from Monday 11th January. Students should refer to their published mock timetable.

Year 9 assessments – w/c 4th January 2021

Year 9 in-class assessments were scheduled to start next week. These will now take place when Y9 students return to school. Further details will be communicated at a later date.

Free school meals

For any families in receipt of free school meals, please note that we will be in communication early next week with details of arrangements for the duration of the partial school closure.

Coronavirus testing in schools

Part of the rationale for the partial closure of schools is to provide leaders with enough time to set up 'rapid testing' in school. Full guidance from the DfE has been published but is subject to regular change at this stage. Please be assured that we will be in touch to communicate any arrangements being made.

Thank you once again for your ongoing support

Yours faithfully



Mr K Hirst
Headteacher