

4th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Start of Term Arrangements – January 2021

I hope that you enjoyed a restful and peaceful Christmas break.

Last week the Government announced changes to the start of term for all secondary schools due to the rising number of Coronavirus cases. We have been informed that the staggered start of term will be pushed back by one week, meaning that all students will return to school on Monday 18th January. Provision for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers will take place on site until that date. Please note that students who attend school will be in computer rooms accessing the same content as those students who are working at home.

The staggered start is also to allow us to formulate our plan for mass testing in school. The information surrounding this is currently being distributed. We received our first shipment of tests this morning and staff are accessing training this week. Consent forms will be sent out shortly and I will keep you informed of our progress in getting ready for this process. It is gratifying to know that children of secondary school age are able to administer the tests themselves, but there are a number of roles involved in the process and it is our job now to ensure that we put a robust plan in place to ensure the safety of our whole school community.

I thought it would be timely to remind you of our expectations in terms of remote learning at this point. From now until 15th January, students in Years 7 and 8 will follow a remote learning timetable at home. Students will follow their existing school timetable. I have attached a copy of our remote learning guide to help with the process.

- Students will follow their normal curriculum timetable
- Staff will post the work for their 5 lessons that day on **Class Charts** by 8.30am each morning. This will contain the instructions, resources, and any links to Google Classroom that are required.
- Students should work through those tasks for that day, spending **only one hour** on each lesson, and no more.
- At the time of the scheduled lesson, the member of staff will be available remotely to support the learning for students via email.

On-site provision for students who are vulnerable or have critical working parents will be available on these days. If you are a critical worker, we would ask that you carefully consider whether you do have an essential need for your child to remain in the school setting for the first 2 weeks of term. If home-learning is possible for your child it will help contribute to drive cases down in our community.

As always, I would like to thank you for your support in what continues to be a challenging environment.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CA Moffat'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial 'C' and 'M'.

Mrs CA Moffat
Headteacher