



4th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **In-school Provision for Vulnerable Students and Students with Critical Key Worker Parents**

I am writing to confirm the details of the in-school offer that vulnerable students and students with critical key worker parents will receive during the period of school closure. As I am sure you are aware, the Department for Education provided revised guidance during the Christmas break and the period of school closure has been extended, running from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January through to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

If you have requested a place as 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. Please only request a place if there are no other adults at home during the school day. If home-learning is possible for your child, it will help contribute to drive cases down in your community.

If for any reason you have decided not to take up the place that your child has been offered, then please either telephone the school office on 01206 671155 or send an email to [admin@paxmanacademy.org.uk](mailto:admin@paxmanacademy.org.uk) as soon as possible.

**Timings of the School Day** - The school day will begin at 8.35am and will finish at 3.00pm as usual. Students should access the school via the main entrance on Paxman Avenue. We would ask that Year 7 and Year 8 students remain separate as they queue for entry outside of the school, and staff will then escort students to separate classrooms.

**Uniform** - Students must attend in full uniform on all days. There are no PE days as practical PE lessons will not take place.

**Catering** - Students in receipt of Free School Meals will receive a packed lunch. We ask that all other students bring their own packed lunch and enough water and snacks to last the full day, as the Food Plant will not be open and students will not be able to purchase any items.

**Teaching & Learning** - Students will be based in computer rooms for the day so that they will be able to access the work being set by teachers via Class Charts and Google Classroom. Students will be supervised by teachers as they undertake their work, but they will largely be working independently on the same tasks that they would complete if they were to undertake their learning at home. Students will be set 5 lessons per day, as per their normal timetable.

**PCR Tests** - Essex County Council has recommended that parents/carers of secondary school-age children accessing on-site provision book an online PCR test via the Government website <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. We would therefore request that you follow this advice and book a test as soon as possible so that results are received prior to Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021. Please select the option that you have been asked to get a test by

a local council (unless your child is showing symptoms of Covid-19). This advice is not extended to students returning to school at a later date, or to primary school age children.

We appreciate that the above will have a number of implications for you as parents and carers, however we hope you can appreciate why this move has been deemed necessary by the Department for Education. This arrangement will be regularly monitored against local infection rates and we will provide you with any further updates as necessary.

Hopefully this addresses any concerns you may have, however, should you have any further questions then please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "K Steele". The letters are cursive and somewhat stylized.

Mrs K. Steele  
Assistant Headteacher – Teaching & Learning