

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter reaches you and your families in strong health - body, mind and spirit. I am writing with the purpose of communicating some key changes to the beginning of the spring term following recent government and DFE announcements regarding COVID19 yesterday.

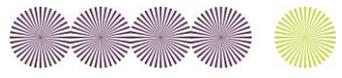
As you are probably aware, the rising rates of coronavirus infection have led the Government to delay the return to face-to-face teaching in secondary schools. A staggered return is therefore required, with priority given to the year-groups facing public examinations in the summer (Years 11 and 13) alongside vulnerable students and the children of critical workers. Key arrangements for the next two weeks are as follows:

- The academy will now have three inset days from **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>**. Monday will now be used to ensure all staff are tested before returning to work, as well as providing much needed time to plan for the next three weeks, especially for the remote learning.
- **Years 7-10 and Year 12** will have remote learning from the start of term **on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January**. Further information will be communicated for each year group detailing their timetable and remote provision. They will be able to return to school for face-to-face teaching **on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January**.
- **Year 11 and Year 13** will also have remote learning for the first week of term, **starting on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January**. It is imperative that the Year 11 and 13 use the days before returning to revise and plan for their forthcoming mock exams later in the term. Further information will be communicated for each year group detailing their timetable and remote provision. Students in these year-groups will be able to return to the school **on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January**.
- We will continue to provide face to face education on site from **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January for vulnerable students and the children of critical workers**. We will contact these families early next week to notify them of arrangements.
- **Some Y13 students are due to sit BTEC exams next week**. These will take place as planned in school and we will be in touch with these students early next week to confirm arrangements.

Over the holidays we have been working on plans to begin offering coronavirus testing for students and staff in school, and I will keep you updated on these arrangements as further information becomes available. This testing programme will help us to identify asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases and thus to reduce possible transmission in school, which will be beneficial.

The rising rate of infection is naturally of concern to us, and we will be keeping the safety of our community at the heart of all our planning. I thank you in advance for your support during such unpredictable times

With every good wish to you all for 2021.



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ISAAC NEWTON  
ACADEMY

Yours sincerely

Morgan Haines  
Principal