

31st December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Re: Our approach to the staggered return to school in January 2021

First and most importantly, I hope this letter finds you and your family safe and well and that you have been able to have an enjoyable and peaceful Christmas.

You will doubtless be aware of the Government's announcements regarding Greater Manchester being placed in Tier 4 restrictions, the mass testing of pupils and staff, and the delayed opening of secondary schools. In summary, with respect to Hollingworth:

During the week beginning 4 January 2021

- Our academy will only be allowed to open for children considered by the Government as vulnerable and children of key workers in order to allow us to plan for the mass testing of pupils and staff.
- We will be expected to plan to be able to offer COVID-19 tests to all staff and pupils at Hollingworth. We are expected to have this in place from 10 January 2021. We will start to gain consent for this from each parent / carer.
- It is critical that all pupils in Year 11, if well, follow their normal timetable and access remote learning on Google classroom, including live lessons from period 2 (9.50am) on Tuesday 5 January. There will be assemblies for pupils in all year groups, including Year 11, staggered between 9am and 9.50am on Tuesday 5 January to explain what will be happening in the following weeks. We are also looking at provision for online learning for pupils in all other year groups for this week and will confirm arrangements for both of these on Monday 4 January, when we hope to have had further information about mass testing arrangements.

During the week beginning 11 January 2021

- Our academy will be open for pupils in Year 11 as well as vulnerable children and those of key workers in order to allow us to commence the mass testing of pupils and staff.
- Pupils in other year groups will be expected to follow their normal timetable of lessons via remote learning on Google Classroom.
- During this week we are expected to implement COVID-19 testing for all pupils (subject to parental consent) and staff. We anticipate that this will involve inviting pupils to attend an appointment in school where they will be able to take a COVID-19 test prior to their return to school. Although this is not compulsory, the aim of this is to keep children, parents, staff and all of our families safe prior to returning to school. We would strongly encourage you to support this measure. We are aware that this is going to be a huge logistical challenge and I will keep you updated with further information once we get it.

RESPECT



RESPONSIBILITY



RESILIENCE



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During the week beginning 18 January 2021

- Current guidance to schools states that on this day all pupils will be back in school. We hope that this is the case although we are aware that this may be subject to review.

Clearly there are significant changes which have been made since the letter I sent home just before Christmas. I will update you with further information on Monday 4 January and following this when it becomes available.

Many thanks for the kind messages of support we received before Christmas and your continued support during this pandemic.

Best Wishes,



Mr D Randle
Headteacher