

18 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

The school received confirmation from the DfE yesterday evening that schools with secondary-age pupils should prepare for a phased start back to planned on-site provision in the first week of next term; this is to allow for the roll out of COVID-19 testing in schools from January.

The DfE has stated that this should involve:

- *full-time on-site provision from the first day of term for all vulnerable children, the children of critical workers and pupils in exam year groups (primarily years 11 and 13)*
- *as many secondary-age pupils and staff as possible being offered 2 lateral flow device tests, starting in the week commencing 4 January, prioritising staff, vulnerable children, the children of critical workers and pupils in years 11 and 13*
- *remote education being provided for all other pupils when they are at home, and in line with local tier restrictions*
- *all pupils back in school for face-to-face education on 11 January.*

Parents/Carers will appreciate that this significant announcement has come extremely late in the term and I should inform you that we have few details at this point regarding how any testing programme might be administered and from precisely when. It is not clear how viable this proposal is for the very start of term.

The school will now be holding an INSET day on 4 January with a view that Year 11 pupils, vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers will return to site on 5 January. Remote education via Google Classrooms will be provided for other year groups during this week.

I will update you when we have further information. In the meantime, we will be reviewing our critical worker and other lists, so please look out for and respond to 'alerts' requesting information.

I realise that this announcement from the Government may also affect families' plans and regret any inconvenience caused.

Yours sincerely



Ms S F Spivey  
CEO, Headteacher