



1st January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a restful and relaxing holiday so far.

As you will have seen in the news this week, the government has announced a delayed return to face-to-face lessons for students in secondary schools. This letter, and the plans within it, now replaces the last letter from me in December in relation to the staggered return next week. The plan announced on 30th December for England as a whole is this: During the week commencing 11 January 2021 students in Year 11 and 13 return to school and then the week commencing 18 January 2021, all other students return to school. So to clarify for all please see below:

Monday 4th January 2021 is an INSET day - no students will be on site, no mock examinations will take place.

Tuesday 5th January 2021 - remote learning for all year groups begin and are to be completed at home UNLESS students are Key Worker/vulnerable who will access this work from school..

All lessons begin online from 8.40am as per student timetables from Tuesday. Online lessons will continue until face-to-face lessons recommence and will remain available to any students who are isolating. Vulnerable and Key Worker students return to school from Tuesday 5th January and will be directed to classrooms dependent on the year group. They will follow their normal timetable using devices

on site. If you would like your child to access this provision and you have not yet let us know via the google form, please email deborah.ellis@dstc.kent.sch.uk

Mock exams from 4th January - 8th January 2021 will be postponed and we are working on a revised Mock timetable. It is highly likely that the exams already scheduled for 11th January onwards will continue as planned and those missed will be added in. Students should continue to revise and participate in all remote revision activities.

External BTEC examination on 8th January - will go ahead - those students involved will be contacted to confirm arrangements.

Week beginning 11th January

Year 11 and 13 return for face to face lessons/ examinations.

Week beginning 18th January

All students return.

Years 7, 8, 9 should remain with usual timings: Year 7 at 08 30, Year 8 at 08 40, Year 9 at 08 50 all via the sports hall quad.

Leaving times remain the same: Year 7 at 14 45, Year 8 at 14 55, Year 9 at 15 05 all via the sports hall quad.

Year 10 will change to arriving at 08 45 and Year 11 will be allowed in from 08 35 both via the pupil entrance .

Leaving times remain as present for Year 10 and 11: Year 10 at 14:50 and Year 11 at 15:00

Post 16 should arrive as usual between 0830 and 08 40 via the reception and only remain on site for exams/ lessons.

Can students please try not to arrive early, they MUST wear masks once on the site (i.e. once past the school gates and into the car park). They must also wait in allotted bays and keep 2M from those NOT in their friendship groups.

Mass testing

We will be considering the logistics of this on Monday 4th January and hope to have more information to give you later that week.

Finally, you continue to be a strength to us running the school with your understanding and support as well as kind words. The response to the expressions of Interest for asymptomatic Covid testing has been positively overwhelming. We are all in this together and that makes us so much stronger.

I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy New Year, and thank you, as always for your continued support.

Anne Davis

Principal