

18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to let you know about the arrangements for the start of next term. As you may know, the Government announced yesterday that there should be a staggered start to return to school. In addition, they announced the day before that there would be mass, rapid testing in schools from 4th January. What has not been made clear to the general public is that schools are to take responsibility for setting up these testing sites within the school buildings, finding the personnel to man them and training them on what to do. There will be a lot more said about this I am sure by politicians, educators and unions in the coming days.

The Government has said that schools can take an **extra INSET day on 4th January 2021** to prepare for delivering testing. Having spoken with the Chair of Governors today, we agree this is a sensible thing to do, as we have so little information and time on which to base any decisions or planning.

This means that only those students taking exams on Monday 4th January 2021 will be expected to attend school. These students will need to leave as soon as the exam is over.

As with all other INSET days there will be no work set on the 4th January, students should read/revise and ready themselves for the term.

Week beginning the 4th January 2021 is a week 1

Year 10 / 11 and 13 Mock Exams: 4th January 2021 - 8th January 2021

- Year 11 & 13 Mock examinations will continue as planned. Please ensure your child reads their timetable carefully and comes fully prepared with any equipment (we are unable to loan any equipment due to COVID-19 restrictions).
- Year 10/12/13 Sport Exams will take place as planned on Monday 4th January.

Year groups 7/8/9 Lessons 5th January until 8th January

Please note Years 7, 8 and 9 will have remote learning for the remainder of the first week of term - students should follow their normal timetable through Google Classroom. Any log on issues, please email joanna.donegan-edwards@dstc.kent.sch.uk.

Year 10 students taking the mock exam on Monday 4th January

If your daughter is taking the mock Sports exam on Monday the 4th January she should attend school as per her examination timetable on this day (please note we are unable to loan any equipment) and prepare to leave directly afterwards. From Tuesday the 5th January until Friday the 8th January she will then have remote learning as per her timetable via Google Classroom.

Year 10 - 5th January until 8th January (Excluding those taking the mock exam on Monday 4th January)

Year 10 will have remote learning for the remainder of the first week of term - students should follow their normal timetable through Google Classroom.

Any log on issues, please email joanna.donegan-edwards@dstc.kent.sch.uk.

Year 11 and Post 16- 5th January until 8th January

Face to face lessons will recommence on Tuesday 5th January 2021 alongside the examination timetable.

Key Worker children / Vulnerable Students 5th January until 8th January

- If you are a Key Worker or your child has a Social Worker, then we also aim to be open for them too. Please fill in the form to request a place for your daughter / son. [Key Worker / Vulnerable Update Form January 2021](#) This is for a place at DSTC between Tuesday 5th January and Friday 8th January inclusive. ***Due to safeguarding constraints, if you do not register for a place, then we will be unable to allow your daughter / son to stay on site during these dates. The deadline for this is Tuesday 22nd December 2020.***

We continue to navigate all of the changing expectations as best we can with the information given to us. We appreciate your continued support and patience with the situation.

We wish you a peaceful and healthy festive season,



Mrs Anne Davis
Principal