



January 2021

Dear Families,

I hope that you have managed to have a safe and relaxing Christmas and New Year break.

Following on from the Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson's announcement yesterday I would like to update you with a few changes to the start of term.

It was announced that schools will now;

- Deliver education remotely to all year group's week beginning **Monday 4th January**.
- Deliver face-to-face teaching for **Years 11 on Monday 11th January** with all other year groups receiving remote education.
- All year groups to return to the Academy on **Monday 18th January**.

As you are already aware, there is a training day for staff on Monday 4 January. We will begin teaching remotely on Tuesday 5th January and students will be able to access the links to lessons on the student portal and Subject Hub sites. It is important to provide this for all year groups and we will do our absolute best to do so. At this stage though, the level of staff absence is unknown. It is anticipated that the overwhelming majority of lessons will be live lessons. There may be the odd occasions where it is necessary to set work; where this is the case, work will be uploaded to Teams for students to access.

School will be open to children of critical workers if they have no other childcare arrangements available. This will be available from **Tuesday 5th January** Students will be accessing their remote lessons whilst being supervised by staff in a classroom. Please click the link in this letter to fill in the Microsoft Form to request a place. Please check the links to see the Government definitions of critical workers and vulnerable students.

[Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/critical-workers-and-vulnerable-children-who-can-access-schools-or-educational-settings)

[Click to request a place as part of the Critical Worker Scheme](#)

We will be distributing vouchers for Free Schools Meals to those eligible families during the week beginning 4th January.

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We are doing all that we can to support students and families during this difficult time and will release more information as we get it. I'm sure families appreciate that this is a rapidly changing situation, and I will update families with information as and when we receive it. Thank you for your patience, and best wishes for 2021.

Yours sincerely

Mr M Kelay
Principal

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