

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Re: Government Announcement 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

As you will also be aware, there have been a number of announcements in the news over the past 24 hours about changes. These take place in schools in January and I wanted to let you know what they mean for us all. We have heard the announcements via the news also, with no prior warning, so please do bear with us as we respond to these announcements and plan accordingly with only half a day of the term left!

Firstly a decision has been made that the return of students in January will be staggered as follows:

- Students in Year 11 & 13, as well as all vulnerable children and children of key workers will attend school in person from Wednesday the 6<sup>th</sup> of January
- All other students in Year 7 - 10 and Year 12 will return to school on 11<sup>th</sup> January, and until then will complete their learning virtually through Google classroom. Further details on this will be sent to families prior to 6<sup>th</sup> January
- All students will follow their normal timetable whether online or in school.

Please be aware that Year 11 & 13 students will be required to attend the Academy, and there will also be provision for vulnerable students, SEN students in receipt of an EHCP and those with parents who work in critical services in Year 7 - 10 and in Year 12 to attend the Academy in person. Vulnerable students and SEN students in receipt of an EHCP will receive phone calls on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to ascertain if they wish to attend from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> January.

Secondly a decision has been made by central government and NHS England that from January, Covid-19 testing will be taking place in schools. This will be different for staff and students.

**Staff**

The government have proposed that all staff are tested on a weekly basis using lateral flow testing, which gives results within 30 minutes.

**Students**

Students will not be tested weekly. However if a student has been in close contact with a student or a member of staff who has tested positive for Covid 19, parents will have two options:

1. You can opt for students to complete a period of self isolation in line with the current guidance
2. You may give consent for your child to be tested in school for seven consecutive school days. If during this time they test positive for Covid-19 they would have to complete a period of self isolation.

We understand that this may be a lot to take in and that you may have questions. On our return in January, we will share information about how you can give consent for your child to be tested and more detail on the test itself. For now, we wanted to ensure that you were aware of the Government's proposals and to reassure you that we are putting in place rigorous plans to meet the new requirements and to ensure every student continues to be kept as safe as possible in these challenging times.

Please find more information here [DfE information for parents](#)

Finally any student who tests positive for COVID 19 between today and Monday the 21<sup>st</sup> of December is asked to notify the Academy via email on [covidreport@chelsea-academy.org](mailto:covidreport@chelsea-academy.org) so that we can conduct track and trace.

I know that some of you have expressed frustration with the issues around your child having to self isolate or last minute decisions when a year group must remain at home. I do appreciate the disruption this causes. However please be aware we are doing everything we can to keep the Academy safe for all staff and students, and that we are having to respond to very last minute announcements and changes by the government. The staff have been absolutely incredible this term and must be saluted for their dedication and commitment.

Once again I wish you a peaceful Christmas break and pray that we have a much more positive 2021.

Yours sincerely,



Mariella Ardron  
**Principal**