

31st December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

On Wednesday 30th December, Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, made an announcement to the House of Commons regarding changes to the start of the Spring Term for students returning to school sites due to recent Covid-19 cases. In his statement, he confirmed that secondary school sites across England will remain closed for most students until Monday 18th January. Please note, however, that **while our school site will be closed to all except keyworker and vulnerable students, we are still expecting all students to be accessing work from home via Microsoft Teams from 9.05am on Tuesday 5th January.** Please be reminded that **Monday 4th January is an INSET day and remote teaching for all students will begin on Tuesday 5th January.** Details are below for the days and weeks following:

Students invited to attend w/b Monday 4th January

Only children of keyworkers and vulnerable students are able to attend school from Monday 4th January. We are grateful to those parents who have let us know their child will require a keyworker place in school already. If you have not yet let us know you would like to register your child using [this form](#). Mr Mooney, Ms Bellingham or a member of the Learning Hub will be in touch with other parents should school be open to them.

Students attending school in this way will be split into bubbles and each will be allocated a specific seat within a computer room. They will then follow their remote lessons via Microsoft Teams as their peers at home and will need to bring in books and stationery required for each day. **We will return to school on Week B of the timetable.** We would be grateful if students could please bring in their own headphones (preferably with an in-built microphone similar to those which come with a mobile phone) to allow them to access lessons safely.

We will supply lunches to those who are entitled to Free School Meals, but other students need to bring in a packed lunch each day please. Full school uniform is required when on site and buses will run as usual.

Year 11 Students from Tuesday 5th January

A full timetable of lessons will be taught remotely from 9.05am on Tuesday 5th January and all students are expected to attend every lesson. **We will return to school on Week B of the timetable.** Registers will be taken at the start of every lesson. Students will follow their normal timetable via Microsoft Teams and PE lessons will be set as independent tasks. We



highly recommend that all students use this time, as well as other opportunities throughout the week, to take a break from their screens and enjoy some fresh air and exercise safely in order to support their well-being.

As it stands, all Year 11 students will return to school on-site from Monday 11th January, where they will resume socially distanced, face-to-face teaching. The canteen and school buses will run as usual and full uniform will be expected. As we will be continuing to teach in ventilated rooms with windows and doors open, students should ensure they have adequate clothing and a coat to keep them warm throughout the day. Should students wish to wear face masks in lessons, they will continue to be able to do so.

External exams in some subjects are scheduled throughout January and these will run as planned. For those students who have a Music exam in the first week of term, staff will be in touch to invite students in for a revision session on Wednesday 6th January (9.00am – 11.15am) to prepare for the exam. Other exams are the following week when Year 11 students have returned to school, and similar revision sessions will be made available for them also. Given the unprecedented nature of the start to this term, we have made the decision to postpone the Year 11 Parents' Evening until Thursday 14th January.

Students in Year 7 – 10 w/b Tuesday 5th January

Students will be expected to access work via Microsoft Teams to complete at home from Tuesday 5th January to Friday 15th January, with their teachers being available and setting work in line with their normal school timetable. Teachers will give instructions live, explain new concepts and ideas and take Q&A through Microsoft Teams. **Students will be following remote teaching from Week B of the timetable.**

All students should follow their normal timetable throughout the day using the following times to log in to lessons. Students have been taught how to log on to Teams via the school website, and a reminder video will be sent to them via school email showing them how to log on, access teams and to use the basic functions within a live lesson.

Period 1: 9.05 – 10.05am

Period 2: 10.05 – 11.05am

Break: 11.05 – 11.25am

Period 3: 11.25 – 12.25pm

Period 4: 12.25 – 1.25pm

Lunch: 1.25 – 2.15pm

Period 5: 2.15 – 3.15pm

Our pastoral team will make regular contact with all students to ensure they are able to access their lessons and to check they are able to engage fully.





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Richard Brand: Headteacher

All students will need access to the internet and a device to access Microsoft Teams, as well as their books or paper to work on. If they are unable to access headphones and a speaker, staff will be available to support via the chat function on Teams.

We do have a limited supply of devices in school for collection for those most in need. If this applies to you please contact us at info@thedeanacademy.org. Devices will be allocated to students in exam year groups in the first instance and we will be in touch on Monday 4th January to arrange collection.

As it stands, all students are expected back in school on Monday 18th January. We will, of course, keep you updated should this plan change over the coming weeks.

Testing

We will begin preparations on site for the start of our routine Covid-19 testing over the coming week, given that staff and students have been requested by the government to have regular access to tests in school. Please see our letter from earlier in December – if you have not already given consent please do so as soon as you are able using [this form](#). We will be in touch with more details around the logistics of our approach soon, but we are likely to need more volunteers from our community to support this proves and we are very grateful for those generous offers of support already given. Please contact us via info@thedeanacademy.org if you are able to offer any support.

Once again, I am sorry to have to contact you in the holidays, but wanted to offer some clarity as soon as possible given the rapid changes. If you have any questions, please do use the email above and get in touch.

In the meantime, please may we all wish you a very Happy New Year and thank you once again for your understanding and patience as we work to return all students to face to face teaching as quickly and safely as we can.

Yours sincerely

Richard Brand
Headteacher

