



Ref: YPE/era

Date: 18 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE ON CORONAVIRUS TESTING IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS AND A STAGGERED START TO TERM 3, 2021

You will no doubt have seen the press releases from Gavin Williamson, Education Secretary, over the last 48 hours.

The DfE has announced that Term 3 will have a staggered start. They have directed schools to open on 4 January to students taking public examinations, which includes Years 11, 13, and selected groups in Year 12, alongside provision for key worker children in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. If you require your child to attend key worker provision, please [click here](#).

The DfE has directed schools to provide students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 with remote learning for this first week. These year groups are due to return to school on Monday 11th January, when we aim to be fully open for face-to-face teaching (apart from those needing to self-isolate). We will write to you with further details in the new year.

Students working from home will be able to access their lessons on Google classroom; work packs will be sent out to students who have requested them.

The Government has also announced plans for schools to offer coronavirus testing from the first week of January. We fully support the aims of this testing programme, but would like to reassure you that we will not initiate a testing programme without full consideration of both the safety implications and the practical arrangements. We would also like you to be fully consulted in any programme that we might offer, so that we are able to support you in making a considered decision about whether you consent to your son or daughter being tested. I am sure that you will understand that we will simply not be in a position to be able to offer this testing facility at the start of term.

Please be assured that if we were to offer this targeted coronavirus testing in the future, it would only be when we have recruited appropriate staff from the community, ensured that all safeguarding checks have been completed, and implemented a full training programme from medically trained professionals. Thank you for your continued support in these challenging times. We wish you and your family a happy and healthy Christmas.

Yours faithfully



Ms Y Peden
Headteacher