

WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

December 31 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

The Department for Education DfE has updated its guidance to reflect the announcement on 30 December to extend the phased return to face-to-face education. for secondary-age pupils. The major changes are that:

- ❖ schools should take time in the week commencing 4 January to prepare to deliver testing of staff and pupils
- ❖ in the week commencing 4 January, **secondary schools should only provide on-site education to vulnerable children and children of critical workers, and prioritise remote education to those in exam years**
- ❖ in the week commencing 11 January, secondary schools should provide on-site education to vulnerable children, children of critical workers and those in exam years, and provide remote education to all other pupils
- ❖ from 18 January, all pupils should return to on-site education

Children and young people who are vulnerable:

Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College will be open for children and young people defined as vulnerable from Monday 4 January. We have contacted families whose children meet the government's definition of vulnerable to let them know their children should be in school/college next week. The DfE guidance is explicit that children who are vulnerable are expected to come to school/college.

Children of critical workers:

Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College will be open for children whose parents/carers are critical workers. If you need to access this provision, then you should do so via the link: [Link to request a place for a child of a critical worker](#). Please note this survey should be completed by 12:00 noon tomorrow.

School Meals:

School meals, including hot food will be available to children/young people attending school/college during the phased return.

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals [FSM] but will not be in school/college next week, we will make provision available to you. The DfE guidance is that this *should* be in the form of food parcels. However, when Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College were closed in the spring and summer almost all families entitled to FSM told us they preferred vouchers. Therefore, we plan to make vouchers available to families entitled to FSM using, Black Hawk, the company that provided vouchers to these families over Christmas.

School and College Transport:

We are expecting School and College Transport, including the Uno C5 service to operate according to existing timetables.

Week beginning 4 January:

Remote learning will be prioritised for Year 11 pupils and Year 13 students, as well as those Year 12 students who are entered for one or more A Level and/or BTEC examinations this academic year.

Remote learning for these children and young people will include some live lessons, via Teams as well as further work set using a variety of different on-line platforms, including *ShowMyHomework* and Teams.

Next week, remote learning for Year 9 and Year 10 pupils and all Year 12 students in all subject they are not entered for public examination this academic year will be set using on-line platforms, including *ShowMyHomework* and Teams. [In the week, beginning 11 January remote learning for these year groups will include some live sessions on Teams]

Assemblies for Year 11 pupils, Year 13 students and those Year 12 students taking public examinations in 2021:

Live assemblies –via Teams for all Year 11 and Year 13 learners [and those Year 12 students with external exams this academic year] are scheduled for Monday 4 January to check that all of these children and young people can log in remotely. Links to these assemblies will be sent to the relevant individuals via Teams and their school/college email.

Please see Additional Information A for the times of these assemblies.

Public Exams scheduled for January 2021

Public examinations WILL take place for twenty-two Year 11 pupils entered for Level 1 Number and Measure on 7 January and for Year 12 and Year 13 students studying BTEC qualifications and/or Finance.

Please see Additional Information B for more information.

Week beginning 11 January:

We will send another update about the arrangements for the week beginning 11 January. However, to give parents/carers a “heads-up”, the current guidance states that:

- ❖ all Year 11 and Year 13 students will be in school/college from January 11, as well as those Year 12 students taking public examinations this year;
- ❖ Year 9 and Year 10 pupils will continue with remote learning for this week;
- ❖ Lateral Flow Device Testing will begin, starting with Year 11 and Year 13 children and young people. We anticipate that other children in other year groups will also have the first of their two tests during that week;

We expect that the Year 13 Parent/Carer/Student/Teacher Consultation Afternoon will take place remotely as planned. More information will come out next week.

Week beginning 18 January:

The government has indicated that all learners in secondary schools and 16 – 19 colleges will return to normal face-to-face education from 18 January.

Mass Testing for Covid-19:

DfE guidance issued yesterday evening at 7:00pm indicates that mass testing should now start from Monday January 11. This allows all schools/colleges more time to plan their mass testing programmes. Over 500 of you have already replied to our survey and told us you intend for your child to be tested in school: over 98% of respondents accepting the offer. If you have not yet told us your intention, please find the link to do this: [Click here to give consent](#)

A further letter outlining information regarding testing will be sent to you very early next week. I am very grateful to Mrs McMorn and Mrs Enser, Mr Detheridge and Dr Mackay and o Mrs McMenemy for providing me with the information in this update letter.

Yours sincerely and once again on behalf of all of us, happy new year.

Michael Gleeson
Executive Principal