

Principal: Mark Woodhouse

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5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent /Carer

**Re: National Lockdown**

I wrote to you last week following the Government's announcement just before the New Year about when students would return to our academy this term.

I am sorry to be writing to you again so soon on this subject. However, as you may have seen, the Prime Minister has now announced a new national lockdown because of rising infection rates of Covid-19 and to try to prevent the further spread of the virus.

As part of this, all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges in England are to be closed from today for in-person attendance, except for children of key workers or vulnerable children.

The Prime Minister also announced that "not all exams" would go ahead as normal this year and that there would be alternative arrangements. He said the Government would set out further details on this at a later date, and when that information is announced, we will update those of you whose children are due to take exams this year. What was confirmed late last night by the Department for Education is that the January vocational exams in Sport, Child Development and Business Studies will go ahead as planned. Teachers will contact these students with more details and we will write separately to the students and parents to explain how we will run these exams.

**From today:**

**If you or your partner is a key worker, or if your child is classed as vulnerable, then the academy will remain open**, as now, and we look forward to seeing them as normal for teaching and learning. If you have not done so already and require this provision, please contact the academy.

For those attending in person, we will be maintaining the approach to safe working and infection control that we have adopted throughout the pandemic. As this will include additional ventilation, we would advise those attending to ensure they wear additional layers of clothing during this period of cold weather.

**For all other students, we will be offering remote provision – this is likely to be until at least the end of the February half-term.** High-quality remote learning will be provided to make sure our students continue to receive a consistent education. We know that this places pressure on you at a difficult time but your support in helping your child engage as much as possible is so important and we are very grateful for it.

As previously indicated, online remote learning for all students will follow normal student timetables. Students will be able to access their learning via Microsoft Teams. Work will be delivered as a combination of 'live lessons' as well as additional independent work. All students have been shown how to access their work via Microsoft Teams but additional guidance is available on our website.

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Live lessons will be recorded and accessible in the classroom on TEAMS in each student's area. This means that they can be accessed again or watched at a different time where students have to work around shared IT equipment. Teachers will take a register for all lessons and if a student is unable to access a lesson they should email their teacher explaining this and then email to confirm that they have watched the lesson and completed the work when this has been done. It is important that we know of any students who have not accessed the learning expected for their return to the academy and so we can contact them to provide support.

We will continue to provide pastoral support and I know form tutors have emailed their tutor groups. If you or they have any concerns, please contact the academy in the usual ways. The academy will contact you and/or the students routinely to ensure that your child is accessing the learning, that there are no concerns as well as to see if there is any further support we can offer. Our pastoral, SEND and Safeguarding teams all remain available to support students and parents/carers with any academic or pastoral issues.

We will continue to stay in touch with you of course. However, do let us know if you require any support relating to these new arrangements.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation. Please continue to take care and to stay safe.

Kind regards.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Mr Woodhouse'.

**Mr Woodhouse**  
**Principal**