

5 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Coronavirus: 3rd National Lockdown & School Closure

The government announced yesterday, Monday 4 January 2021 at 8pm, that there will be another national lockdown that will see all schools closed for most students from Tuesday 5 January 2021. Vulnerable and key worker children can still attend during this time but parents must inform the school via office@dittonparkacademy.co.uk with 24 hours' notice if they are going to attend on site provision. This is not face-to-face teaching but provision to some ICT facility as most staff are also working remotely.

Our provision for remote learning will be as follows:

W/B – Monday 4 January 2021

Staff have prepared themselves this week for delivering learning to Year 11 & 13 with the setting of tasks/work for all other students. We are very grateful to all staff, students and parents for their understanding and commitment to the learning that has been made available during this time.

W/B – Monday 11 January 2021

Staff are now working to ensure that all students can access learning opportunities across the week whilst we are planning/resourcing the full lockdown timetable. We are now able to offer a combination of taught and self-managed learning. Resources will be made available for students to access during this transitioning week and will closely replicate student timetables. Students will be alerted via Teams as to how they access the learning materials.

W/B – Monday 18 January 2021

We had been preparing ourselves for a different staggered start for this term as you are aware and now must shift our attention quickly to our bespoke timetable for a full lockdown.

This will be made available to you next week. Days are divided into times when staff led learning is available, up to one hour for on-line learning and then there is another hour in-between these times when students can manage themselves/have a break and do other activities before the next on-line learning time.



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Nick Caulfield – Principal



SELF-WORTH ASPIRE SUCCESS HONESTY

The rationale for moving to this during this 3rd national lockdown are for the following reasons:

1. Recognition of different ICT provision for families – limited access, sharing devices with siblings, sharing devices with parents working from home.
2. Recognition of family contexts: staff and parents – DPA staff balancing working and having to home-school their children, parents working from home and needing to home-school, DPA staff and parents having to home school multiple children.
3. Balancing screen time – full on-line live lessons all day is too much screen time for staff and students
4. In response to student, staff, parent/carer feedback from the Spring/Summer lockdown – balancing workload at home and with jobs.

It is with regret again that this announcement has been made so late in the evening and after only one day since our holiday. We do hope that this letter now informs you with how Ditton Park Academy staff are still working remotely and what your child can do and access throughout this national lockdown.

As always, we are very grateful to have your support and co-operation throughout these very challenging and difficult times.

Stay safe and should you require our support please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



Nick Caulfield
Principal



Chris McNab
Associate Principal