

31 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Coronavirus Update: Revised staggered return for secondary pupils in England

Following our letter to you on Friday 18th December 2020 the government announced further changes yesterday, Wednesday 30th December 2020, that there'll be a delayed staggered return in January with some pupils starting online rather than in class.

Exam-year pupils, including those taking GCSEs, A-levels and vocational exams next year, will now start term on Monday 11 January 2021, while other secondary school pupils will study online for this week.

Vocational/BTEC external exams will still occur as normal and students who are working from home should attend school to do these exams but then return home immediately afterwards.

Face-to-face learning is expected to re-start for everyone by 18 January 2021.

Why does the government want a staggered start?

Schools with secondary-age pupils are asked to prepare for a phased start back to planned on-site provision to allow for these pupils to be tested. This should involve:

- full-time on-site provision from the first day of term for all vulnerable children and young people, and the children of critical workers
- preparation in the week commencing 4 January so that as many secondary-age pupils and staff as possible being can be offered 2 lateral flow device tests, prioritising staff, vulnerable children, the children of critical workers and pupils in exam year groups
- remote education being prioritised for pupils in exam year groups (primarily years 11 and 13) during the week commencing 4 January
- remote education being provided for all other pupils from 11 January, with remote education resources week commencing 4 January prioritised for exam years
- all pupils back in school for face-to-face education on by 18 January 2021

Pupils prioritised for on-site provision should be kept in consistent bubbles in the week commencing 4 and 11 January until the rest of their year group returns to normal on-site provision. Outside of school, they should continue to adhere to [local tier restrictions](#).



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Nick Caulfield – Principal

All schools are expected to take up this offer of asymptomatic testing. The consent form is still live on our website and the more parents who provide permission for their son/daughter to have the test at school before or when they first return will speed up the process of ensuring that our school community moves nearer, where possible, to being covid-19 safer. Normal self-isolation guidelines must be adhered to at all times.

Regardless, we will still only provide on-site provision for staff, vulnerable children and the children of critical workers in the week commencing 4 January.

From week commencing 11 January, we will provide on-site provision for vulnerable children, the children of critical workers and exam year groups (primarily pupils in years 11 and 13).

Mapped provision by year group:

Year group	W/B Mon 4 th Jan 2021	W/B Mon 11 th Jan 2021	W/B Mon 18 th Jan 2021
7	Home – Research/Learning Tasks	Home – On-line learning	School - Lessons
8	Home - Research/Learning Tasks	Home – On-line learning	School – Lessons
9	Home - Research/Learning Tasks	Home – On-line learning	School – Lessons
10	Home - Research/Learning Tasks	Home – On-line learning	School – Lessons
11	Home – On-line learning/ revision	*Mock Exams	Mock Exams
12	Home - Research/Learning Tasks	Home – On-line learning	School - Lessons
13	Home – On-line learning/ revision	*Mock Exams	Mock Exams

*Students in Year 11 & 13 should only attend school on Monday 11 January if they have an art exam. Please refer to the revised mock exam timetable for more detailed information and the commencement of mock exams for all students from Tuesday 12 January 2021.

Children of Key Workers and vulnerable children can be accommodated in school so that they can access the same resources as other students. This is not face to face teaching as provision will be limited and affected by the Covid-19 arrangements in keeping everyone safe. They should come to school following the normal staggered start time to maintain social distancing from other years.

Another reminder to please inform us by 3pm on Saturday 1st January 2021 if your child falls into this category and you are planning to send them in on Monday 4th January 2021 via office@dittonparkacademy.co.uk

Other students who will benefit from being on site will be contacted individually by the academy. On-line learning will not always be live due to several factors that are not always in our control. However, resources can be accessed, and some staff might record the lesson to help students work at their own pace.

Students should follow their normal timetabled lessons with Monday 4 January being WEEK D and Monday 11 January 2021 being WEEK A. There will be a limited restaurant provision on-site during the first couple of weeks and we will also try and get lunch delivered to students who are entitled to a meal if they are at home.

It is with regret once again that this announcement has been made so late this week and that we are now only a few days from returning from our holiday. We hope that by getting this letter to you today we are providing you with the time you need to plan for the next few weeks in January 2021.

Inset Day – Change of date

We have decided to postpone the inset day planned for Tuesday 19 January 2021. Given the recent announcements and delayed staggered start for most students we feel that delaying this staff training day until later in the year is wise at this stage. We will provide you with plenty of notice with the new date nearer the time.

Face Coverings

You will recall these have been compulsory for all students and adults at Ditton Park Academy for many weeks now in communal areas in the school. It will not come as a surprise to many of you with the increase in people testing positive for Covid-19, a greater staggered start for secondary students, the need to get a testing site up and running quickly this term and the announcement of a new vaccine we have taken the decision that all students and staff will now need to wear a face covering in class/lessons as well. This does not apply to those who are medically exempt but from Monday 4 January 2021 all adults and students will be required to wear a face covering at Ditton Park Academy.

We wish you a peaceful and safe New Year and look forward to welcoming your children back sometime in January when we can resume face-to-face learning and participate in the governments asymptomatic testing programme for everyone's safety, now and in the future.

Yours sincerely

Nick Caulfield
Principal

Chris McNab
Associate Principal