

18 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

**RE: Coronavirus: Staggered return for secondary pupils in England**

The government announced yesterday, Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December 2020, that there'll be a staggered return in January 2021 with some pupils starting online rather than in class.

Exam-year pupils, including those taking GCSEs, A-levels and vocational exams next year, will start term as usual, while other secondary school pupils will study online for the first week.

Face-to-face learning is expected to re-start for everyone by 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

**Why will there be a staggered start?**

The aim is to allow schools to prepare and set up coronavirus testing schemes. This has already been communicated to you this week, but further information is still needed before we can provide you with the exact details of how this will work at DPA.

School staff will be offered a test each week and there'll be a daily test for seven days for pupils who have been in contact with a positive case.

Those exam year pupils returning for face-to-face lessons will also be offered tests, with all testing to be on a voluntary basis and requiring permission from pupils' parents. Without this normal government guidelines will need to be followed and a period of isolation at home required.

Year group	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan – Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2021
7	Home – On-line learning
8	Home – On-line learning
9	Home – On-line learning
10	Home – On-line learning
*11	School – Mock Exams
12	Home – On-line learning
*13	School – Mock Exams

\*Students in Year 11 & 13 should only attend school on Monday 4 January if they have an art exam. Please refer to the exam timetable for more detailed information.



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Nick Caulfield – Principal



SELF-WORTH ASPIRE SUCCESS HONESTY



Children of Key Workers 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. They should come to school following the normal staggered start time from this term to maintain social distancing from other years.

Please inform us by **3pm on Monday 21 December** if your child falls into this category and you are planning to send them in on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 via [office@dittonparkacademy.co.uk](mailto: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 4th January being WEEK D and there will be a limited restaurant provision for the first week back. 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 that this announcement has been made so late this week and that we are now on holiday. We hope that by getting this letter to you today we are providing you with the time you need to plan for January.

Yours sincerely

Nick Caulfield  
Principal

Chris McNab  
Associate Principal