



18th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we reach the end of term, I am writing to thank you for your support during my time as interim Principal. Whilst we continue to live in unprecedented times, teachers, colleagues and students have responded with commitment and determination to the changes required due to Covid-19 and we have regularly updated procedures in line with government guidelines.

As you know, our new Principal starts with us in January and he will be writing to you at the start of term to introduce the new, permanent leadership team.

The Government yesterday afternoon updated its guidance regarding the start of term in January and has advised that secondary schools in England should **not** fully re-open to all students and staff following the Christmas holidays until Monday 11th January.

Monday 4th January remains an inset day as planned and the academy is therefore closed to all students on that day.

We will open on Tuesday 5th January, as scheduled, for:

- students in exam year groups (i.e Year 11 and Year 13)
- children of key workers
- students who are vulnerable.

All other students will receive their learning remotely for the first week of term (i.e. from Tuesday 5th January) and they will be expected to engage fully with this. Thank you for your support in this.

Students will already be familiar with the process of logging onto TEAMS, and attending the lessons on their timetable. Their teachers will deliver the lessons and students can respond using the 'chat' tool. This will continue throughout the week, and attendance at lessons is expected.

We appreciate that this change is short notice and may inconvenience you, but it is essential that we closely follow all Government guidance on COVID-19 in order to safeguard our students, staff and wider school community.

To summarise, therefore:

- We will reopen in person to years 11 and 13 on Tuesday 5th January 2021
- We will also reopen in person to the children of key workers and to vulnerable young people (i.e. those for whom we were open during last spring's lockdown) on Tuesday 5th January 2021
- All other students will be expected to access remote learning from Tuesday 5th January 2021 and to return to the academy in person on Monday 11 January.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Mary Cox
Interim Principal