

18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear parent/carers

**Re: our approach to the staggered return in January 2021**

You may have seen in the news that the government has [announced](#) yesterday a staggered return for secondary pupils at the start of next term. This will affect pupils in Years 7 and 8. Due to the late notice of this decision we are still working through many of the details but we wanted to share with you today our planning so far.

On the week commencing **4<sup>th</sup> January** we will continue with our planned INSET days on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> of January. For the rest of the week, the following will apply:

- Students in Year 5 and 6, will all attend school in person from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.
- We will offer full-time remote education to all other pupils in Years 7 and 8 from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.
- Pupils will be able to access this using Google Classroom.
- Vulnerable children and children of critical workers will all be able to attend school in person from the start of term. If you believe your child is in this group please complete the form that will be issued on Parentmail to let us know if they will be attending school. A list of the eligible categories is attached to the end of this letter.

We'll welcome **all pupils** back to school for face-to-face education on the week commencing **11<sup>th</sup> January**.

We have been directed by the department of education to use this time to establish a COVID-19 mass-testing system within the school. Here's what we know so far about the rapid testing programme recently announced by the government:

- Pupils in Year 7 and 8 will be eligible to be tested weekly.
- Pupils who are identified as a close contact of someone who's tested positive will be eligible
- All staff will be eligible
- While testing will be optional, we'll strongly encourage staff and pupils to take part
- We won't ask your child to participate in testing without their consent (or yours, as appropriate)
- If someone tests **negative**, they'll still need to follow our social distancing and hygiene measures
- If someone tests **positive**, we'll ask them to self-isolate in line with government guidance



**Allenbourn**  
MIDDLE SCHOOL

As soon as the government publishes more information on the testing programme we will update you.

Thank you so much for your continued support as we respond to this evolving situation.

We look forward to welcoming your child back to school next term in line with the dates above.

Warm regards

Cindy Pritchard  
Headteacher

### **A reminder of the definitions of 'critical workers' and 'vulnerable pupils'**

Critical workers are those who work in:

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services (including the justice system, religious staff, charities delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting)
- Local and national government (those who are involved in delivering the coronavirus response or essential public services)
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

Vulnerable pupils are those who:

- Are assessed as being in need, including those with a child in need plan or child protection plan
- Are looked after by the local authority
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- Have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by the school or LA, including children who:
  - Are on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services
  - Are adopted
  - Are at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
  - Are living in temporary accommodation
  - Are young carers
  - May have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)

If you believe your child is in this group please complete the form on Parentmail to let us know if they will be attending school from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January.