31 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Return to school in January 2021 – key dates**

I am writing further to the announcements made yesterday by the Secretary of State for Education and the Prime Minister about pupils’ return to school in January 2021.

**There will be a staggered return to school in January 2021 for all pupils**

The reason for the staggered return is to enable schools to set up the testing programme that is designed to identify asymptomatic cases of Covid-19 and break the chains of transmission.

This programme will enable us to keep more children in education and reduce the need for large groups of pupils to self-isolate if a positive case is detected.

Details of the key dates over the coming weeks are given below:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Week commencing** | **Details** |
| Tuesday 5th January  | Vulnerable children & the children of critical workers attend school for face-to-face education\* All other pupils receive remote education as per their normal timetable using Microsoft Teams |
| Monday 11th January | Year 11 pupils return for face-to-face educationYear 7 to 10 pupils continue to receive remote education at home |
| Monday 18th January | Year 7 to 10 pupils return for face-to-face education so all students will be back in the academy from this date. |

\*If you are a critical worker, please complete this short form to register your child for face-to-face-education: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=9XyWLoQJF0Oy_0Bv7lvSyr-faNv0cfNIq_SrYgu0aP5UMUVaSUM5MDNXUUtaRzcwSzI1TktJUFlBOC4u>

In order to ensure pupils can access remote education, students will need to be able to access their Microsoft TEAMS account either on a phone, tablet, laptop or PC. A further letter will come out on Monday confirming how students access their lessons remotely.

During the week beginning Monday 4th January 2021, I will be working with colleagues to set up the testing programme at St Aldhelm’s Academy and will write to you with further details about the programme. There will be a detailed letter and a consent form for all parents to sign. Please be aware that whilst we are encouraging every parent and child to take part in the programme, participation is voluntary.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support. I realise that the notice given to parents and carers to adapt to this revised timeline is less than ideal but I am grateful for your understanding that these changes are in response to rapidly changing national events.

With very best wishes for a happy and healthy new year to you and your family.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J Amos

Principal