

18 December 2020

Dear parent/carer

### Principal's update

I write to you as we reach the end of an exceedingly challenging but successful term. I am very optimistic for the future and exceedingly proud of what our students and staff have achieved since September.

### January 2021 return

The government advised that schools should stagger their return following the Christmas holiday. Monday 4 January will be an INSET Day as planned – no students should attend. Students in Year 11 and Year 13 should return to the Academy, as normal, on **Tuesday 5 January 2021**. School transport will operate, and Period 7 intervention will take place each day.

Bespoke provision will be in place for Year 12 students who are sitting examinations during the first week in January. The Sixth Form Team will contact families individually to confirm arrangements.

Students in all other year groups will work from home from **Tuesday 5 January until Friday 8 January 2021**. We will have on-site provision for students in Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 who meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Key Workers' children who do not have any alternative childcare arrangements
- vulnerable students
- students who do not have access to online learning from home.

This provision will be the same as that delivered to those students who are working from home and will take place during normal Academy hours.

Please contact the Academy on [office@dukeries.atrust.org.uk](mailto:office@dukeries.atrust.org.uk), as soon as possible, if you require to use this provision. We will contact you on the 4 January 2021 to confirm your place.

Full Academy uniform and equipment expectations will apply to all students attending on-site provision.

All students will return to the Academy on Monday 11 January 2021.

### Remote Learning

We have been working hard, at short notice, to ensure students in Year 7-Year 10 and Year 12 continue to receive full access to high quality education through Remote Learning from Tuesday 5 January until Friday 8 January 2021.

Our aim is to ensure that your child has access to a full Live Lesson timetable during this time through Microsoft Teams. If anything changes, your child's lesson timetable will be updated accordingly. Please see our **Parent and Student Remote Learning Guides** on our website, which help to explain our expectations, along with what your child can expect from us. You can find those here: <https://www.dukeries.atrust.org.uk/students/home-learning/> along with useful video guides to support you.

Each morning, your child will be required to log-in to Microsoft Teams using their **Academy e-mail address and password**. If your child has forgotten these, they can be reset by emailing: [ITSupportTDA@academytransformation.co.uk](mailto:ITSupportTDA@academytransformation.co.uk).

*Below are the key points and expectations for your child:*

- Your child will be added to a Class Team. It will be a “Remote Learning” Team, and your child will be assigned to either a **Group A** or a **Group B**
- Your child will have access to Tutor Time, from 8.40am, each day. Your child’s tutor will help them plan for the day ahead and share key updates. Lessons will then take place at the usual times.
- Your child will need to check their timetable daily, which can be found in “files”. They should attend all of their normal lessons, at the normal times, which will be delivered by a specialist teacher from within the Academy. These can be accessed from within the Team “posts” area and your child should attend these as they would in the Academy day.
- Our attendance processes will operate as normal, and regular contact will be made with home to ensure that students are attending Live Lessons
- Your child should return any work to the teacher and the teacher will explain how this should be done.

### **Mass Testing**

The government have also announced, this week, that a programme of mass COVID testing, of secondary school staff and students, will operate from January 2021. We are currently reviewing the guidance and developing plans to implement this programme. I will write to you early in January to provide further details.

### **COVID-19 Track and Trace activity**

I would like to remind you of the details I sent in my letter of 14 December 2020:

- If your child tests positive for COVID-19 after developing symptoms within 48 hours of last being in school and within the first six days of the holiday, you should notify me via email at [office@dukeries.attrust.org.uk](mailto:office@dukeries.attrust.org.uk) – this email will be checked once each day and we will assist with necessary contact tracing
- If your child tests positive for COVID-19 after developing symptoms more than 48 hours since last being in school, then there is no need to contact us – you should instead contact NHS Track and Trace who will advise you
- There is no need to contact us at all if your child tests positive after developing symptoms at any point after Thursday 24 December – you should instead notify us at the start of term in January.

I would like to wish you a wonderful Christmas and holiday period on behalf of the staff and Local Academy Committee at The Dukeries Academy. I look forward to working with you in 2021 as we continue our journey from good to great.

Kind regards



Mr Ged Rae  
**Principal**