



18 December 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Guardians

Yesterday we learned of Government plans to introduce a mass Covid testing programme in secondary schools and to start the new term in a staggered way.

There has not been much time to plan for this new approach and not all of the finer details are known at this stage.

However we can confirm that the new term will begin as follows.

Monday 4 January 2021	Staff training day (school closed to all students)
Tuesday 5 January - Friday 8 January 2021	School opens to Year 11 students, Year 13 students and for some students in Year 12 taking exams. The school is also open to vulnerable students (all years) and children of critical workers (all years). Both of these terms are defined below.
Tuesday 5 January - Friday 8 January 2021	All other students in Year 7, 8, 9, 10 and those in year 12 not taking exams will work at home by accessing the Lord Grey Virtual school. They will not attend school this week.
Monday 11 January 2021	All students in all years attend school

Vulnerable students are defined as those who have social worker support, are looked after children, have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), adopted children, children under special guardianship orders, those living in temporary accommodation, young carers and other students who have support for mental health.

Critical workers include those working in health and care occupations, schools, food production and distribution, transport, key public services, utilities and communication services.

We have to plan for the first week back in a very short time period. To help us plan for how many groups we need to operate in the first 4 days of term (Tuesday 5 - Friday 8 January 2021) we need to know if you would wish to take up a place in school. It is important to recognise that we cannot provide a full normal timetable experience on these days as we will also need to be teaching Year 11 and Year 13 students and delivering remote learning, but all our other facilities will be open including the canteen and student services. The provision for vulnerable students and children of critical workers will be based in year group bubbles and will be largely based on using Virtual School materials in class along with some practical activities.



If you need to access this provision then please complete this simple [form](#).

The second part of the Government announcement was about mass testing in schools. At this stage there is very little detail that I can provide except that no testing will take place without prior consent from parents, that the test is administered by students themselves involving a swab of the throat and nose, that it is optional and that it provides a quick result.

We support the idea as mass testing will help us to reduce the number of children missing school through self-isolation but there are many logistical issues that need to be addressed before we know exactly how many students we will be able to test and how frequently. I will write again to let you know more details when we have them.

Yours Sincerely

Jim Parker
Principal