



WILLIAM FARR

C of E Comprehensive School

Our Ref: JMK/SXG

21 December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

On Thursday 17 December, the Department for Education (DfE) made a late announcement that schools are being asked to implement a phased start to the Spring term, and being invited to set up a mass Covid-19 testing programme for students and staff. Although the DfE have said they will be publishing more guidance to schools over the Christmas break, I wanted to share with you the information we currently know so that you have adequate notice to plan for the start of next term.

Students returning to school in January 2021

In line with Government guidance, Year 11 and 13 only will return to school on Tuesday 5 January 2021, whilst Years 7-10 and 12 are to remain at home and work remotely until the end of Friday 8 January. Further guidance on remote learning will be issued by the end of Monday 4 January 2021 and will subsequently be posted on the school website.

All students are expected to return to school on Monday 11 January 2021.

Students returning to school will be expected to continue to follow the protection measures put in place during the Autumn term, including:

- regular handwashing/sanitising hands
- wearing a face covering on arrival to school, in corridors, at break/lunchtime and when travelling on buses
- social distancing between year-group bubbles and staff
- following the one-way system

Students should continue to bring a packed lunch to school or one can be ordered from the school canteen if they are entitled to Free School Meals.

Students whose parents are critical workers and vulnerable children

If you are a critical worker or your child is classed as vulnerable (see link below for details), they can attend school and access full-time education from Tuesday 5 January 2021 if you wish them to do so. However, it is your decision whether to keep your child at home. These children will access remote learning in school in line with other students studying at home. If you would like your child to attend school, please email wfarr@williamfarr.lincs.sch.uk by 9am on Monday 4 January 2021. Year 7 and 8 students should report to the main hall at 9am on Tuesday 5 January 2021 and Year 9, 10 and 12 students to the dining hall.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

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If your child is entitled to Free School Meals and is remaining at home between Tuesday 5 January and Friday 8 January 2021, payment will be made to you in due course.

Covid-19 Testing Programme

The announcement that the Government hopes to introduce mass testing of students and staff, as a way of reducing the spread of the virus and enabling fewer students and staff to have to self-isolate, is welcomed. However, to date, the Government has not finalised guidance on how this will work in schools and with William Farr now closed until Tuesday 5 January, no further decisions can be made on this until next term.

We fully understand that you, like us, were not expecting these announcements in the holiday period and as you will appreciate, this has made it very difficult for us to plan for any changes when they have yet to be finalised by the Government. However, as always, we will continue to do our very best for your child.

Wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas.

Yours faithfully

Jonathan Knowler
Headteacher