

1st January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Important update - arrangements for January 2021 – first two weeks of term

I hope that you and your family enjoyed a peaceful and safe Christmas.

My letter today includes important information relating to when your child will return to school at the start of this coming term.

You will have seen media coverage of recent government announcements for secondary schools in January. The Government has advised that secondary schools in England should not fully re-open to all students and staff in the first two weeks of term (weeks commencing 4th and 11th January 2021).

I do appreciate that these changes come at short notice but we continue to follow all Government guidance on COVID-19 in order to safeguard our students, staff and wider school community.

I would like to update you on our plans, following these latest announcements. We will provide as much face-to-face teaching as we can, to support students who have upcoming external examinations. We have put a full programme of remote learning in place for all other children.

A full breakdown by year group is provided further below. In summary:

- On **Monday 4th January**, the school will be closed for all students for a staff training day.
- School will be open from **Tuesday 5th January** for:
 - Vulnerable children in all year groups
 - Children of critical key workers in all year groups
- School will be open from **Monday 11th January** for all students in **Year 11** and **Year 13**
- School will be open **for all** students from **Monday 18th January**.

All other students will receive their learning remotely for the first two weeks of term. Students are expected to engage fully with their timetabled remote learning and I thank you for your support with this.

We will welcome all students back at school for face-to-face teaching from week commencing **18th January 2021**.

Remote Learning

Students are well practised in accessing our remote learning offer via Microsoft teams. If you would like an update or refresher on how to access remote learning, please review our guide to remote learning, via this link <https://www.donvalleyacademy.org.uk/online-academy>.

- **Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9** – Students will follow their normal timetable, accessing live lessons on Microsoft Teams for English, Maths, Science, History, Geography, MFL and Life. Other timetabled subjects will provide online project work on Microsoft Teams.
- **Year 10 and Year 11** – Students will follow their full timetable on Microsoft Teams.

- **Students will require a pen, paper and their planners for online learning.**
- There will be **online year group assemblies on Tuesday 5th January at 8:30am** with a member of the senior leadership team to outline the plans for the week and to ensure all students are able to access online provision. Lessons will then commence.
- **Vulnerable children and children of critical workers** – Provision will be made for students to attend the academy as normal from Tuesday 5th January. If you feel your child meets this criteria and you would like them to attend, contact the academy via attendance@donvalleyacademy.org.uk or via main reception to arrange a call back to discuss booking a place. Please be aware that this provision must be pre-arranged via the learning manager and students should not attend on Tuesday 5th January unless this has been pre-arranged. You can find more information about this via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>
- **IT support** – If your child does not have the technology to access online learning, please contact their learning manager for support.

We are currently awaiting further guidance on the government's plans for voluntary testing in schools. We hope that this will be a positive development, to allow us to minimise the disruption to staff and students and maintain as much in person teaching and learning as possible. We will update you as soon as we can, as more information is provided by the government.

I would like to thank all members of our school community for their support and wish you and your families a happy and safe New Year.

Yours faithfully,

H Thornton

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Principal