



18 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Urgent action required - staggered start to the spring term

Following on from the letter you will have received from Embrace MAT, you will be aware of the staggered start to the spring term announced yesterday by the government. The DfE has told schools that the reason for the staggered start is two-fold:

1. To drive down infection rates that are expected to rise as a result of the Christmas break.
2. To allow schools to consider their approach towards testing within schools, as further outlined in the previous letter from Embrace Trust.

From Tuesday 5 January, year 11 students must attend school as normal and will continue their lessons/mock exams as planned.

Students in years 7-10 will be accessing online learning from home. Our intention is that there will be a mix of live lessons (subject to staff availability), alongside the remote learning resources that students can access through Google Classroom 'unable to attend' folder in the normal way. More details will be issued to parents/carers once the school reopens to staff on 4 January 2021.

As with previous lockdown schooling, those students in years 7-10 who are vulnerable (ie students who have an EHCP, are classed as looked after, or have social care involvement) or whose parents/carers are critical workers (ie emergency service workers etc.) can still attend school from Tuesday 5 January. The provision for these students will follow the same provision as those studying from home. They will be supervised in a classroom, accessing the same live lessons (subject to staff availability) and the remote learning resources as those at home. This will ensure the continuity of the curriculum from the 11 January so all students, whether at home or school, are accessing the same learning. Students attending the school site in years 7-10 are unlikely to be in their normal classes for that week. In years 7-9, they will be placed in a single class that they will stay in for the entirety of the week in order to access any live lessons and the remote learning. Students in year 10 will also remain in one class, but will still access their option subjects where provided during the week.

To set up this, we need parents/carers of students in years 7-10 who are critical workers to complete [this form](#) by Tuesday 22 December, in order for us to know that your child will be attending, in school, from 5 January 2021. If your child has an EHCP, is classed as looked after or has social care involvement, they are entitled to attend school from Tuesday 5 January but please also complete the form to indicate that they will be attending the provision. This will then allow staff, prior to 4 January, to put plans together. Please note that the intended plan outlined above is subject to change and is dependent upon numbers responding. The final plans will be sent out on Monday January 4 to parents and carers. It is important that the deadline for this survey is met, otherwise we will not have in-school provision set up for your child from 5 January 2021.

Thank you for your continued support at this time and I wish you and your family a peaceful Christmas.

Yours sincerely

Sadie Batstone
Principal

