

29th December 2020

January Restart – Our Current Plans

Dear Parents and Carers,

First of all, I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Christmas. I am sure you are now wondering what the arrangements are for the first few weeks back at school. Here are the key points:

Monday 4th January is an INSET day. The school is closed to all students.

From Tuesday 5th January. The school is open to all year 11 students. The school is open to any student who is considered a child of a critical worker or a vulnerable child and for whom the online form has been completed (to be uploaded this week).

All other students in years 7 to 10 are to work from home via the student hub and Teams lessons.

At this moment we presume the school will re-open to all students from Monday 11th January subject to Government decisions made over the next few days.

Teams lessons from 5th-8th January for years 7-10

Staff have been asked to prepare Teams lessons for their year 7-10 classes at times that match the normal school timetable. The links will be with the students over the coming days. The lessons will not be a full hour. They will usually begin with an online session for up to half an hour but then students will be directed to complete work offline and prepare for the next lesson.

Please note that core PE lessons in years 7-10 will not take place. Furthermore, some other practical subjects do not work as well online and so be prepared there may not be a Teams lesson for every lesson. Also, if the number of critical worker children and vulnerable children is very high, we may need to reallocate further staffing to accommodate these students.

Lateral Flow Testing of students and staff

On return, we expect to offer all staff and students Lateral Flow Tests on a regular basis. We are still awaiting full details and equipment to be able to start these tests. Before the tests commence we will need a consent form for every student who wishes to take the test. This will be uploaded for completion as soon as we have further information.



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Students who consent to having the test will be tested twice in the first few days. Following these tests, students can opt to take further tests if they have been in 'close contact' with someone who has tested positive rather than isolate for 10 days. If the student chooses not to isolate then they would need to take a test every day for 7 days. There is a video and leaflet from the DFE on our school website which explains how these tests are carried out.

Re-rooming of year groups

From Tuesday 5th January, teachers will return to their own classroom. This is to support the wellbeing of the staff and improve aspects of behaviour around the school. The students will move around the school rather than the teachers. Most secondary schools in the New Forest are implementing the same procedure. Students will be issued with new timetables on their return. The only difference will be the change in classroom. No other changes are planned. The times of day, and the separate breaks and lunches remain the same. Students will register in the same room they have been registering in since the beginning of term and enter the school through the same door. To ensure the risk of COVID transfer remains low we have put in place the following control measures:

- We have employed a full time cleaner whose sole responsibility is to clean door handles and rails around the school.
- We have implemented a one-way system for students and staff so that different year groups do not walk past each other.
- We have installed hand sanitising stations on the walls inside every classroom and expect students to use them every time they enter a classroom.
- We have provided each classroom with cleaning materials so that desks are cleaned between each class.

The possibility of snow

We have already had a small amount of snow this winter and there may be more to come over the next few months. If the school has to close due to snow before the beginning of the school day, we will inform you via the website and the Apple Link app. If we need to close during the day, then we will need to know how your child will get home. Therefore, a snow letter and consent form will be published next week. Please complete the form and ensure your child returns it to their tutor.

Hopefully, this has provided enough information for you to start planning for the next few weeks. We have placed some documents on the school website and will continue to do so over the next few days dependent upon updates from the Government.

I look forward to welcoming all the students back to school in 2021.

Yours sincerely



Mr Alan Chipping
Headteacher