

31st December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this finds you and your loved ones well.

Following yesterday's announcement by the Secretary of State for Education regarding further delays to the full reopening of secondary schools in England, please see a summary of key information and actions below. I apologise for the late notice and the changes from the letter I sent on Tuesday; but as you will appreciate, the government has changed its guidance once again at very late notice.

### Key Information

**Monday 4th January:** remains a non-pupil staff inset day. Students are not required to be in school and lessons will not be delivered remotely owing to staff training. All Year 11 students will all be contacted regarding engaging with remote learning and to offer careers support with completing applications for Post-16 courses, as deadlines are fast approaching at the end of January.

**Tuesday 5th January - Friday 8th January:** remote learning for all pupils except those of critical workers who cannot work remotely, and those students deemed vulnerable. As before, students will follow their normal timetables and lesson timings and access lessons via Microsoft Teams. Attendance, levels of engagement and behaviour will be closely monitored. Support will also be given to overcome any access issues. The only lessons that might be disrupted, will be those for which a teacher is absent or has joined the academy in January. During this time, the Academy will be making arrangements for rolling out mass rapid testing in school for staff and students. Details will be confirmed later next week.

**Wednesday 7th January:** The Music BTEC exam for Years 10 and 11 will take place as planned. Further details to follow.

**Monday 11th January - Friday 15th January:** Year 11 students onsite unless self-isolating or unwell, following their normal timetable. All other years continuing with remote learning, with the exception of those children of critical workers who cannot work remotely, and those students deemed vulnerable. During this week, rollout of mass rapid testing will begin with Year 11 and then other invited year groups potentially, subject to how the launch goes. If other year groups attend for their tests, they will continue with remote learning other than when coming in for their test.

**Monday 18th January onwards:** all year groups attend onsite learning unless self-isolating. Continued rollout of mass rapid testing in-school whilst lessons are underway.

**Year 11 Mocks:** these are scheduled for w/b 18th January, for 2 weeks. We feel that with a diminishing window in which to do these and the chance that additional evidence of GCSE grades may be of extra importance this summer, it would be wrong to postpone these further. It may be that we need to reorganize the exam timetable and venues to accommodate the mass testing, but we will confirm details around this as soon as we have worked out the revised logistics. Of course, any plans are subject to local and national developments with infection rates.

**Children of critical workers/vulnerable students:** in order for us to make plans for Tuesday 5th January to look after those pupils who need to attend, would you please inform us if you consider yourself to be a key worker with, your job role and your employer, or if you think your child is vulnerable, by 12.00 p.m. on Monday 4th January by emailing your child's Support and Guidance Manager.

The definition of key workers can be found below;

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



[Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK](#)

All pupils in full-time education. Schools and colleges welcomed back all children and young people from the start of the autumn term. It is vital that children and young people remain in school ...  
[www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

- **Support and Guidance Managers:**  
Year 7 – Tina Whiberley ([twhiberley@elatschools.co.uk](mailto:twhiberley@elatschools.co.uk)); Year 8 – Sue Ware ([sware@elatschools.co.uk](mailto:sware@elatschools.co.uk)); Year 9 – Gemma Slade ([gslade@elatschools.co.uk](mailto:gslade@elatschools.co.uk)); Year 10 – Gill Gilbert ([ggilbert@elatschools.co.uk](mailto:ggilbert@elatschools.co.uk)); Year 11 – Maria Martin ([mmartin@elatschools.co.uk](mailto:mmartin@elatschools.co.uk)).
- **Free school meals:** we will ensure that students in receipt of free school meals are provided for whilst learning remotely. We will get clarification on this when we speak with the catering team on Monday and will communicate how this will be managed immediately after.
- **Safeguarding:** whilst our students learn remotely, it is really important to remember that the safeguarding of our students is everyone's responsibility and should you need to make contact with a member of our school safeguarding team, please contact the school office and a member of the team will make contact with you.

It remains a complex and challenging time for schools and parents/carers right now but working together, I am confident we can continue to move forward. I hope you can enjoy the remaining few days of the holiday safely and please do look out for more communication on Monday and over the following days.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and wish you and your families a very happy and healthy 2021. Take care.

Best wishes,

**MR. W. THOMPSON**  
Principal