

31 December 2020

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 4 and 11 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 elaborate on the information sent earlier, 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 overleaf. In summary:

- On **Monday 04 January**, the school will be closed to all students for a staff training day.
- School will be open from **Tuesday 05 January** for:
  - Vulnerable children in all year groups
  - Children of critical key workers in all year groups
- School will be open from **Monday 11 January** for all students in **Year 11** and **Year 13**
- School will be open **for all** students from **Monday 18 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 **18 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 [Student Quick Links | The Vale Academy](#).

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 sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Williams', followed by a period.

**Mrs N Williams,  
Associate Executive Principal**

For **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January only**, the following arrangements will be in place:

- **Year 7** – Remote learning. A full timetable of remote learning activities will be provided. You can access this via Teams. Your child is required to engage fully with all activities included in their timetable and I would like to thank you for your support in this. They will return to school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January.
- **Year 8** - Remote learning. A full timetable of remote learning activities will be provided. You can access this via Teams. Your child is required to engage fully with all activities included in their timetable and I would like to thank you for your support in this. They will return to school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January.
- **Year 9** - Remote learning. A full timetable of remote learning activities will be provided. You can access this via Teams. Your child is required to engage fully with all activities included in their timetable and I would like to thank you for your support in this. They will return to school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January
- **Year 10** – Remote learning. A full timetable of remote learning activities will be provided. You can access this via Teams. Your child is required to engage fully with all activities included in their timetable and I would like to thank you for your support in this. They will return to school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January
- **Year 11** – For Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 8<sup>th</sup>, a full timetable of remote learning will be in place. You can access this via Teams. Your child is required to engage fully with all activities included in their timetable and I would like to thank you for your support in this. Students should report to the academy as normal from Monday 11 January to benefit from face-to-face teaching.
- **Year 12** - A full timetable of remote learning activities will be provided. You can access this via Teams. Your child is expected to engage fully with all activities included in their timetable and I would like to thank you for your support in this. They will return to school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January.
- **Year 13** – For Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 8<sup>th</sup>, a full timetable of remote learning will be in place. Students should report to the academy as normal from Monday 11 January to benefit from face-to-face teaching.
- **Vulnerable children and children of critical workers** - Attend the academy as normal from Tuesday 5 January. 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>.