



31st December 2021

Update for parents

Dear Parents/Carers,

I do hope that you have enjoyed a restful break so far and that you have been able to find ways to celebrate safely. Though it is highly unusual for me to write to you during a holiday period, I am aware that there have been many reports in the media, and I wanted to provide reassurance to you by keeping you updated on the actions we have taken.

I attended a virtual meeting with other leaders across the Trust on Monday 28th December, to discuss all the information available to us and to plan a timeline of action. We have reviewed [key updates](#) published since the end of term, these have provided us with more information about potential funding and confirmed that we will receive the first delivery of tests on the 4th January from 8am.

Yesterday, Wednesday 30th December, the Secretary of State for Education has announced that the Government will further delay the return of secondary school age pupils. The changed plans in place allow more time to fully roll out testing for pupils and staff; this change is in reaction to the need to break transmission of the virus in the community given the high infection rates because of the new variant of the virus. The changes mean that the planned return dates are now:

- **Week beginning of 11th January: return of year 11 and 13, these pupils will be prioritised for testing as they return**
- **Week beginning 18th January: all other year groups return**

From the 5th January, our provision for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers will be in place and open to all eligible pupils.

The Government is keeping these dates under review for some areas where there are very high case rates, we will keep you informed if this affects our school.

We are clear that conducting testing in our school is not compulsory, however we can see that it will potentially reduce the disruption that will be caused by isolating positive contacts and therefore we will work hard to ensure we can take advantage of the testing that has been offered. A leaflet explaining how the test is taken can be found [here](#). Whilst this leaflet should reassure you, I also want to add that **we will not begin testing until we are fully confident that we can conduct this in a safe way.** Mandatory training materials for staff conducting the testing will be accessed, we will ensure that we use the first part of the week beginning the 4th January to train all staff involved in testing. We are currently sourcing trained agency staff who have experience of other testing sites and who will oversee the setup of our facility, we are hopeful that they will join us on the 4th January. Our specialist risk management team will support us on developing and implementing the detailed risk assessment we need to put in place.

When to learn remotely and when to come in

We are fully committed to continuing to improve and adapt our online learning offer so that we are sustaining a quality learning experience during any closure periods. Please see the table/detail below which explains that **remote learning starts for exam groups (year 11 and 13) from Tuesday 5th January 2021 with them physically returning to school on Monday 11th January 2021. Remote learning will start for all other year groups (7, 8, 9, 10, 12) from Wednesday 6th January 2021 with them physically returning to school on Monday 18th January 2021.** Please remember that this is a dynamic scenario with last minute guidance from the

government so please be prepared for change. Thank you for your continued support to make our remote provision beneficial for your child.

Phase One: Students who may return on Tuesday 5th January 2021

Eligible to attend from Tuesday 5 th January 2021	
You must complete the surveys to secure a place in this provision. The survey will close on Monday 4th January at 10am and will not reopen.	
Vulnerable Students	Children of Critical Workers
Please follow this link to see definitions of 'vulnerable' students who are eligible to attend the 'small school provision' from 5 th January 2021	Please follow this link to see definitions of children of 'critical workers' who are eligible to attend the 'small school provision' from 5 th January 2021
Click here for the link to the Vulnerable Student survey	Click here for the link to the Critical Worker Survey
No lessons will take place for these students – this is a supervised childcare provision. Children will have access to ICT to complete independent 'remote learning. This will be staffed by support staff and not teaching staff.	

Students who are not eligible to attend during Phase 1: Remote Learning Guidance:

Students in **Year 11 and 13, not eligible to attend** during Phase 1 will have access to remote education provided by class teachers. The **first day of remote education will be Tuesday 5th January 2021**. Live (or pre-recorded) lessons will commence at 9.00am on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Year 7-10 and Year 12, not eligible to attend during Phase 1 will have access to remote education provided by class teachers. The **first day of remote education will be Wednesday 6th January 2021**. If your child needs support with accessing remote learning, you should contact office@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk for additional support. Please note, we will endeavour to respond as soon as possible, but there may be a queuing system – and we ask for some element of patience. Live (or pre-recorded) lessons will commence at 9.00am on Wednesday 6th January 2021.

Live Lessons

All students will have access to live lessons via MS Teams. It is essential that students have access to **MS Teams** to be able to participate in lessons.

- Students will follow their normal timetable (week 2)
- Students will participate in three lessons per day (as per their normal timetable)
- Students will access a tutor session on Friday 8th January 2021 at 8.30am

Format of the Lessons

- All lessons will include live teaching section or a live introduction (where the teacher outlines independent work and learning)
- Lessons may also include a range of different approaches to student learning such as video tutorials, independent work, quizzes, question and answer sessions, modelling etc.
- Teachers will remain online via the 'chat function' for the duration of the lesson to support with learning.

An invitation to a live lesson hosted on MS TEAMS with the relevant subject specialist with details of the time of this lesson will be sent via the students email address and added to their calendar. Support and guidance can be found on the Remote Learning section of the website



(<https://www.kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk/remote-learning/>). Please note, teachers *will not be sending individual work* to students. Students must follow their existing timetables.

We expect all students to attend at the allocated time and we will keep registers of attendance to each lesson. If a student is unable to attend a live session, they will be asked to inform us via the school office. We will be recording all live lessons for families who need the extra flexibility, and these recordings will be posted to the MS Team that is already set up for every teaching set.

Phase Two: Monday 11th January 2021

All Year 11 and 13 should attend, as normal, on Monday 11th January 2021. Normal lessons will resume for these students. Remote learning will only continue for these students who are self-isolating and following Covid-19 guidance. **Year 7-10 and 12** will continue with remote learning.

Phase Three: Monday 18th January 2021

All Year 7-10 and 12 should attend, as normal, on Monday 18th January 2021. Normal lessons will resume for all students. Live lessons will cease and remote learning will only continue for students who are self-isolating and following Covid-19 guidance.

Further update on the 4th January

I will update you again on the 4th January; when I write to you I will:

- confirm that we have received testing kits as has been indicated in the DfE updates
- outline a draft plan for the implementation of testing and provide you with the details of the arrangements we have put in place
- ask you to complete a form to indicate whether you consent to your child being tested

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding, I hope you are able to enjoy some peace and respite for the remainder of the Christmas break.

Yours faithfully,

Darren Turner