



St Martin-in-the-Fields High School for Girls

11-19 Church of England Academy Founded 1699

Service Compassion Justice Perseverance

Friday 1 January 2021

Dear Families

I hope that you had a safe, restful Christmas and were able to see your loved ones, even if only with the use of technology. I wish you a happy and peaceful New Year and pray for all things good as we move through the year 2021.

My apologies for interrupting you during the holiday period, however this is an important letter to update you on the start of term which now differs from what I wrote in my letter to you on 21 December.

As you will have heard, on Wednesday 30 December, the government announced some important changes to the start of the Spring term over a period of three weeks. This was implemented to limit the number of students returning to school at one time, thus reducing the potential transmission of the virus. In addition, giving time for schools to prepare for the roll out of mass testing of students and staff prior to the return to onsite full time face to face learning.

I previously sent you details of the government testing initiative. Further details about testing, and the relevant consent forms, for you to sign, will be sent to you at the beginning of term, together with information about a virtual meeting that I invite you to, to share the plans for the testing procedure.

The changes announced by the government advised that all learning will be moved remotely and in the first week, priority given to examination groups, Years 11 and 13, other year groups receiving remote learning as resources permit. The reason why they have been chosen is because the Government is still intending for GCSE, A Level and Btec exams to go ahead this summer as planned. The only students who will be invited onsite will be those who are in the government categories of vulnerable or if you are a parent/carer classified as a critical worker and are unable to provide the relevant child care. See below for details of how you can book a place in school.

Students in Years 11,12 and 13 who are taking public examinations will still come into school to take their exams. They will have the timetable for their exams and will be contacted separately.

WEEK ONE - BEGINNING MONDAY 4 JANUARY 2021

MONDAY 4 JANUARY - Staff only. This is an additional training day given to schools to prepare for remote learning and to consider the logistical challenges of setting up covid mass testing.

TUESDAY 5 JANUARY - Years 11 and 13 remain at home. Students will be prioritised for remote learning and live lessons. Students should follow their normal timetable and log in for virtual registration each day at 8.50am and for live lessons according to their timetable.

WEDNESDAY 6 TO FRIDAY 8 JANUARY - Year 12 remain at home and access learning through google classrooms.

THURSDAY 7 AND FRIDAY 8 JANUARY - Years 7, 8, 9, 10 remain at home. Learning can be accessed through google classrooms.

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WITH LOVE AND LEARNING



WEEK TWO - BEGINNING MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2021

MONDAY 11 JANUARY - Years 11 and 13 return to school for face to face learning.

Years 7, 8, 9, 10, 12 remain at home and access google classroom and live lessons all week according to their timetable. Live lessons will be indicated on the timetables which we will publish on the website next week. All students must log in for virtual registration every day at **8.50am**.

WEEK THREE - BEGINNING MONDAY 18 JANUARY 2021

MONDAY 18 JANUARY - It is expected that all students in **ALL Year Groups** will be back in school. You will be kept updated and informed of any changes.

During the weeks beginning 4 and 11 January, we will endeavour to invite students in to school to be tested. This will only take place once the system is properly set up and with your written consent.

If your child has an Education or Health Care Plan (EHCP) has social worker support, or is in care, your child can attend school from **Tuesday 5 January** and access remote learning in the ICT suite, the same learning as their peers will have at home. If you are a Critical Worker (eg NHS, Health Care, Education or other) and you cannot accommodate your child at home to remotely access their studies, please complete the [booking form](#) so that we can make the necessary arrangements to accommodate your child in school.

I appreciate this latest and late announcement will cause further disruption to your household as your child will now have to learn remotely from home. However, evidence shows that covid cases are at a high level with a faster rate of transmission because of a new variant. The government has therefore increased the level of restrictions across the country to Tier 4 and we need to ensure that we have these new plans in place to help keep our community safe which is our top priority.

We rely on your continued support with our risk assessment procedures in school and by also asking you to ensure your child adheres to government restrictions when not in school.

I will be in contact with you again when the term starts to give you further information about live lessons and the potential of the mass testing in school.

If your child is in receipt of free school meals, we will continue to provide vouchers through Wonde during this time of remote learning. We will also provide learning through paper packs for any student who is unable to access this remotely.

Keep up to date with [Covid-19 updates](#) on our website.

With all good wishes for a new and healthier year ahead.

Yours sincerely



Beverley Stanislaus
Headteacher