

FIVE ACRES HIGH SCHOOL

AMBITION – CONFIDENCE – CREATIVITY – RESPECT – DETERMINATION



2 January 2021

Dear parent/carer,

We hope that you have had a great Christmas and New Year period.

You will be aware that over the holiday period the Government has changed plans about the reopening of schools in January, we wanted to write to outline what our updated plans are for the first week back (5-8th January).

Student return:

There has been some confusion in the media as to whether the Christmas holidays have been extended by a week. Please note that this is not the case as we would have to make up this time in the Summer holidays, later in the year.

School will be open as normal for the following students from Tuesday 5 January – Friday 15 January (please note that all Year 11 students will be required to attend from Monday 11 January).

- Students whose parents/carers are key workers and who have booked a place via the Google Form below
- Students who have an EHCP or who are classed as vulnerable and who have booked a place via the Google Form below

If you qualify and require a place for your child for the partial reopening of the school from January 5, please complete the form at this link <https://forms.gle/5Jhd9na2Fe9zASMt9>

Please be aware we have a limit of 25 places per day per year group and priority must go to our more vulnerable students. Please fill the form in using your child's details and your child's place will be confirmed on Monday 4 January 2021. All students attending school during this time will follow the online curriculum using PCs in one of our computer rooms. Students attending school will be expected to wear full school uniform.

Lessons:

In order to give every student the best education provision possible, we have devised a meaningful and robust programme of learning for each year group for the first two weeks of term. This will enable a seamless transition from online learning straight into the classroom context. Please note that no Helpdesk will be available during this two-week period, so please contact the class teacher directly for assistance if needed.

Year 7 - a collation of lessons to follow day-by-day shall be emailed to both you as a parent/carer and to the students on Monday 4 January. All work is to be completed in the exercise book that was sent home with the pupils at the end of last term.

Years 8-11 - work shall be posted on the student's Google classrooms by subject teachers. All work is to be completed on a Google form for submission to the teacher on the day that it has been set.

Year 11 - will be on-site from Monday 11 January 2021 with the usual expectations.

To carry out online lessons we recommend using a tablet or PC/laptop, not a mobile phone. If there are any difficulties for your child to access lessons in this way, please contact admin@5acreshighschool.co.uk.

We would normally issue planners on the first day of any new term to enable students to complete their low stakes quiz homework and reading records, these will now be made available the first time students are able to visit the school. In the meantime, students should write down their low stakes quizzes on paper to be stuck into planners at a later date. All other homework expectations will remain the same.

#BEMOREFIVE



School of
CHARACTER

Headteacher Simon Phelps
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Rapid-result testing:

As we are unclear as to when the necessary equipment to carry out these tests will be delivered we have had to change our original plans. All staff and students will be offered rapid-result tests for Covid-19. The Government has advised that this consists of two tests, administered between three to five days apart, and that all students should ideally be tested before their return to school.

Tests will only be administered if we have received consent. Information about when testing will take place will be confirmed as soon as we receive the testing kits. For Year 11 and all students who are attending as vulnerable students and children of key workers it is likely that testing can take place on Tuesday 5 and Friday 8 January. For all other students, testing will take place week commencing 11 January. We apologise that we cannot provide more certain information, we are waiting for up to date Government guidance. Results will be ready in 30 minutes and you will be contacted only if your child tests positive. If a positive result is returned, students will need to be collected from the school site immediately and taken for a PCR test to confirm the result.

The conducting of tests will be observed by staff and volunteers, who will be on hand to provide assistance, but students will carry out the actual tests themselves.

We will give further details of where students need to register for their tests in our communication on January 4 2021. Students do not need to wear school uniform if they are coming for a test but students attending school for lessons must be in full school uniform.

Consent:

In order to gain consent to carry out the tests, please could you complete the Google Form for your child at <https://forms.gle/bMhci6GkEhNJfuK67>

Student phone call/email checks:

As you would expect, safeguarding and pastoral care is of the utmost concern to us as a school during this period. We will therefore be asking staff members to contact you by phone or email several times during the period that your child is not on the school site. To help us in this please be aware that phone calls may come from withheld numbers. We will continue to make contact, but if you feel that you have missed these calls, please contact the school. You should expect the first of these communications by Wednesday 6 January at the latest. Students who are attending the key worker/vulnerable student schools are unlikely to receive these contacts. During these calls, please feel free to raise with us any issues your child may be having in accessing the work provided.

Finally, during the first two weeks of term there are a couple of calendared events that we need to mention. Firstly, the Celebrations Evening will now not take place but students will receive their certificates and trophies during assemblies in the week commencing 18 January. Secondly, Year 10 Parents' Evening scheduled for Thursday 14 January will go ahead as planned, further information will be sent to Year 10 parents next week.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact admin@5acreshighschool.co.uk

I wish you all a Happy New Year,

Simon Phelps
Headteacher

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