



31 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

THE BEGINNING OF THE SPRING TERM 2021

As I am sure you are aware, the Department for Education has just announced updated plans for secondary schools, involving a staggered start to the spring term in January 2021. The newly revised plans are in response to the significant rise in Covid-19 cases across the country, due to the new, more easily transmissible strain of the virus.

We would therefore ask that for the first week of term you only send your child(ren) into school if absolutely necessary. If it is possible for your child(ren) to work at home safely, then please allow them to do so.

The only students in school from Tuesday 5 January 2021 until Friday 9 January 2021 will be those students for whom it is **absolutely essential** that they attend school and who are classified as either

- vulnerable;
- children of critical workers;
- who *genuinely* have trouble accessing online education.

There is no need to let us know that your child is attending school if they fall into one or more of these categories – they can just come to school as normal. The government's definitions of vulnerable children and critical workers are summarised at the end of this letter.

Education will be provided online for all students from the week beginning Tuesday 5 January 2021, as detailed in the table below. Please could all parents/carers ensure that this remote learning is completed each day.

All students who do need to come to school should enter via their usual entrance at the appropriate time. The Key Stage bubbles, one-way systems and split break and lunch will still be in operation.

School buses will be running to and from school as normal from Tuesday 5 January 2021 onwards.

Currently, we are unable to operate a canteen service during the first week of the new term. Therefore students will need to bring a packed lunch to school unless they are entitled to free school meals. A packed lunch will be provided for all students who are entitled to a free school meal.



As things stand at 9:00 am 1 January 2021, the educational provision for the next three weeks is summarised in the table below **(NB Monday 4 January is a staff training day)**:

Week Commencing	Educational Provision
Tuesday 5 January 2021	Remote learning for all students will be in place. All students will work from home with the exception of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> students deemed vulnerable, children of critical workers or those genuinely unable to access remote learning from home. Students who are in school will follow a timetable linked to this remote learning.
Monday 11 January 2021	Remote learning for all students will be in place. All students will work from home with the exception of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students deemed vulnerable, children of critical workers or those genuinely unable to access remote learning from home. All Year 11 students. Year 10 students who study BTEC PE or ICT. Students who are in school will follow a timetable linked to this remote learning.
Monday 18 January 2021	It is anticipated that all students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 11 will return to full time education at school.

As you can imagine, all the above is likely to change, depending upon the spread of the virus over the next few days and weeks. That is why you will receive regular updates from school.

Schools will be given access to Covid testing from 4 January 2021. The aim is to keep as many students as possible and teachers in school, reducing the disruption to learning. The government's aim is to enable school staff to be tested weekly, as well as daily testing of both students and staff who are close contacts of a positive case, to avoid the need for self-isolation.

We received the guidance from the DfE regarding testing last night. There is a lot to do in order to ensure testing is set up effectively. We will keep everyone updated as new information is forthcoming.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your continued support and messages of thanks during this incredibly challenging time and we will provide additional information to you, as and when we receive new guidance from the Department for Education.

With all the very best for the New Year.

Terry Cartmail
Headteacher



Definition: Vulnerable children and young people

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - care leavers
 - others at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils and students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

EBOR ACADEMY

Definition: Critical workers: *Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.*

Health and social care: This includes but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

Key public services

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government

This only includes those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of:

- the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, and the delivery of and response to EU transition
- essential public services, such as the payment of benefits and the certification or checking of goods for import and export (including animal products, animals, plants, and food), including in government agencies and arm's length bodies

Food and other necessary goods

This includes those involved in food:

- production
- processing
- distribution
- sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

Public safety and national security

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak and EU transition)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff
- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

Transport and border

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response and EU transition, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass and those constructing or supporting the operation of critical transport and border infrastructure through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication, and financial services

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity, and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors