



18th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to clarify the Academy's position regarding the recent Department for Education's (DfE) announcements about the following:

- (i) A staggered return to school after the Christmas break for some students
- (ii) The roll-out of mass testing at secondary and post-16 education

I apologise for the timing of the communication, although I know the vast majority of you understand that is a result of when we ourselves are receiving the information (in this case, yesterday evening).

A staggered return to school after the Christmas break for some students

As we already have an INSET Day planned for Monday 4th January 2021, the following arrangements will **start from Tuesday 5th January 2021**.

Only the following will attend school:

- Students in Year 11
- Vulnerable students and children of critical workers (as was the case in the initial national lockdown)

All other students (Years 7 to 10) will **access full-time remote education** via Microsoft teams. They should follow their normal timetable of live lessons from Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Note: We will identify vulnerable students and contact their parents/carers directly.

Face-to-face education for all students will resume on Monday 11th January 2021.

The roll-out of mass Covid testing

With regard to the roll out of mass testing school, the main point to stress is that we are committed to supporting the government's national guidance and will continue to do so. Unfortunately, at present we are still awaiting further information on what this will require, but rest assured that we will communicate this to you by Monday 4th January 2021. **Our aim will be to test as many students as possible in the voluntary testing schedule that will be running that week.**

Parental responses

To help us plan effectively for the start of term there are two forms linked below that we need you to respond to if applicable.

Thornes Road, Wakefield, WF2 8QF
tel: 01924 330640 email: contactus@cathedral.trinitymat.org web: cathedral.trinitymat.org

The first is to identify your son/daughter as a child of a critical worker (if you are a critical worker, they are in Y7-10 and you intend to send them in to school for face-to-face education from 5-8th January 2021).

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=CCE9ruiSt0Cc_JtGPyH9N5dZpFbCRyJJubh_u1Yd4QIURDFDNExNVU8wTldRUTMwTUxUUUpQME1FUC4u

The second is a 'consent notice' i.e. to give permission for your child to be tested for Covid in the schedule referred to above. This form should be completed for any student (all year groups, attending school that week or not) that is volunteering to be tested. For students in years 7-10 we intend to communicate the testing schedule and format on Monday 4th January. Students are likely to come in for their test and then return home.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=CCE9ruiSt0Cc_JtGPyH9N1w915r_2W9Hjw4gNp4jD9IUQU80NU04RDM0TTU3VzQwQUFUNEJXVFNBWj4u

Both forms, for planning purposes, will have a relatively tight turnaround, so please could you complete these by Monday 21st December at 3.00pm.

Finally, may I take the opportunity to offer you and your family an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas, as well as thanking you for your continuing support of your school.

Rob Marsh
Principal