



Dear Parents/Carers

Newsletter (28) – 31st December 2020

I am writing to update you on arrangements for next week (beginning 4th January) following the changes to returning to school announced yesterday.

Key Changes

- From Tuesday 5th January to Friday 8th January, teachers will deliver remote learning via Teams to all students **in all year groups**. This is different to the message at the end of last term as now years 11 and 13 also need to remain at home. The only students who will be in school in the first week will be vulnerable students and children of critical workers, identical to our 'Real School' from last summer.
- From Monday 11th January to Friday 15th January, only Years 11 and 13 will return to school along with those in Real School. This means that all other year groups (years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12) will be taught remotely for a second week.

Please note that we will be delivering remote learning to all students from Tuesday 5th January. There has been confusion around this in the news, but we believe that all our students should have learning from the start of term. Therefore all students (unless they are already in Real School) should join their tutor session at 8.30 on Tuesday morning, 5th January via Teams. We will be taking registers in tutor time and in all lessons.

Henry Box students in years 12 and 13 should attend their lessons via Teams in the first week. We will contact 6th Form families who learn at Henry Box or Abingdon and Witney College early next week to confirm arrangements

Currently, it is envisaged that all year groups will return to school from Monday 18th January.

Real School for Children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable Students

If your child is eligible to attend school in person next week and you wish to take up this offer, please ensure that you have [signed up by Friday 1st January at 6pm](#). This now includes year 11 students in the first week of term. On Monday, staff will contact families who signed up for Real School to confirm exactly on which days you wish to use the provision (full time or part time), to check that circumstances have not changed because of Tier 4 restrictions or other reasons and to answer any questions. Food will be available in school for students in Real School as usual, or students can bring a packed lunch.

Laptops

If you have requested a laptop to assist with remote learning for the next fortnight, school will contact you on Monday 4th January to discuss arrangements with you. If the changes to school next week mean that your child will benefit from having a laptop at home for a week or two, you can still [sign up by Friday 1st January at 6pm](#).

Free School Meals

We will be sending vouchers for students who are eligible for Free School Meals, as we did last school year when students were learning remotely.

Testing

We are carefully considering what testing we wish to set up on site for staff and students and how we will go about this, based on information that is emerging each day. We will be contacting all families about this next week. Please do not have any worries that anything will be imposed on any student.

Volunteers to help with testing

I have been delighted to have received several offers from parents and community volunteers of help with any testing that we do put in place. Thank you so much for these offers; we will definitely be in touch very soon with more details. Mr Tarrant is coordinating our testing provision. If anyone else feels that they wish to volunteer some time to help with any testing, please do contact him via email j.tarrant@wgswitney.org.uk Training is provided and not all help involves the actual testing.

In the meantime, I wish you all a quiet New Years' Eve.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Shadbolt
Headteacher