

Dear Student, Parent or Carer

I hope you have had a good break so far. I am sorry to interrupt your holiday but I thought I should confirm the arrangements for the start of term given the Government's announcements yesterday.

Start of Term Arrangements

Please note that any scheduled external examinations, such as those for BTEC or similar qualifications, will continue as planned.

January 4th: Staff training - College closed to students.

January 5th-8th: Remote learning for all students. We will be in touch on Monday to explain arrangements. The College is closed to all students except those with an EHCP or those without IT access at home who are welcome to use the LRC. If you think this applies to you please contact your Head of Year to discuss arrangements.

January 11th-15th: Year 13 students return to face to face lessons, Year 12 students continue with remote learning. We will confirm the exact arrangements next week.

January 18th: All students return to face to face lessons.

Testing

I am afraid that despite attending webinars on 23/12/20 and 30/12/20 details from the DfE remain in very short supply. Nevertheless we have made progress in appointing key members of our team and, if possible, we are aiming to have mass testing for all members of College in place in the week beginning 11/1/21.

The testing is voluntary although the Government strongly advises everyone to take part to better ensure their own safety, that of their family and the wider community. As our students are over 16 parental consent is not required but I would still like families to discuss this please. I have included the consent form that our students would sign for information:

[COVID testing consent form](#)

Volunteers

Whilst teachers will be busy with delivering learning remotely, other members of staff may be asked to contribute to the College's testing programme. Please can I ask if any parents or carers would be willing to volunteer to help us oversee the mass testing in the weeks beginning 11/1/21 and 18/1/21. Volunteers do not need to have any medical experience, but should not be in a high risk group. It would also require attendance at a training session at the end of next week. Please contact Jo Payne (jo.payne@wsfc.ac.uk) in the first instance if you are able help.

Best wishes for the New Year

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