



ST MARGARET WARD CATHOLIC ACADEMY



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01A/LatestGovernmentGuidance/DM/LB

18th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Latest Government Guidance

I am sure you were as surprised as I was to read that there will be a staggered start to the new Spring term, this information was only officially released to schools at 6.25pm yesterday and so apologies for any confusion or inconvenience this may cause. Throughout this pandemic we continue to be required to react in a pragmatic manner and will follow the government guidelines.

Therefore, please note the following instructions for the week commencing **Monday 4th January 2021**:

All students in Years 11 and 13 will return to school as normal on Monday 4th January.

Any vulnerable children who were expected to attend school during the first lockdown are also expected to **return to school on Monday 4th January**. These are families that work with a social worker or students with an EHC plan.

If you are a Critical Worker, please feel free to send your child to school as normal if you are working. Can you please email pjohnson@smwca.org.uk by Sunday 3rd January 2021 if you are in this position?

All other students in Years 7-10 and Year 12 must remain at home until Monday 11th January, although lessons will resume remotely online from Monday 4th January for these students. All students are expected to sign into their lessons remotely and punctually. All staff will be in school and will begin 2021 lessons on time with a register. **Students sitting formal exams must attend school on the day of their exam.**

I know that many of you are well versed in the arrangements for remote teaching but, as a reminder, your child has a Microsoft Teams account that is used to access remote teaching. They should access this as usual through their calendar. Further information can be found by clicking the following link:

<https://stmargaretward.co.uk/curriculum/microsoft-teams-and-home-learning/>

If your child has difficulties accessing the appropriate technology, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Pastoral Leader or email techsupport@smwca.org.uk

Lateral Flow Tests

We support the government's decision to facilitate mass testing in school. This will allow staff to be tested on a weekly basis and ensure that any 'close contacts' of positive cases are tested on a daily basis rather than having to be sent home to self-isolate. However, we await further instructions from the government regarding testing arrangements and will inform you of any developments as they become clearer.

Once again, I wish you a peaceful and holy Christmas and will be in touch again when we have more information.

Yours faithfully

Mr D McKenna

Principal

If you require this information in a different format, please contact the school.

