



ST/DLJ

22nd December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are well and apologies for writing to you over the holiday period. As you may be aware, there was an important announcement from the Department for Education on Thursday 17th December.

The Government has updated its guidance regarding the start of term in January and has advised that secondary schools in England should not fully re-open to all students following the Christmas holidays until Monday 11th January.

However, the school will still be open from Monday 4th January, as scheduled, for students classed as vulnerable, for children of key workers, and for students in exam year groups (Years 10, 11, 12 and 13). There are vocational exams scheduled throughout January which we are informed will go ahead as planned and so all students in years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will attend school as normal.

In addition, from Monday 4th January the school will be open to students in years 7, 8 and 9 that are classed as vulnerable and for children of key workers. Students in these year groups who do not fall into the groups listed below should remain at home with appropriate care:

- Children whose parents are frontline workers – the Government has said these would include NHS staff, police and food delivery drivers. However, a more detailed list of occupations in this category is expected to be released by the Government.
- Those classed as what the Secretary of State described as “vulnerable children”. These could be those who have a social worker and those with EHCPs.

The Government has not provided a definite key worker list at present, but if your child falls into one of the already identified categories above, please let the academy know before the academy reopens if your child will be attending from Monday 4th January by emailing keyworker@scacademy.co.uk with your child’s name, year group and details of your occupation. As soon as I have more information on additional key groups, I will share it with you. We will then ask parents/carers who fall within this remit and are accepting this provision to contact the academy as above.

All other students will receive their learning remotely for the first week of term from 4th January and they will be expected to engage fully with this. Thank you in advance for your support with this at home.

Students will follow their normal timetabled lessons for the first week back (week A) and will be able to access their work through Teacher Dashboard. This is the same platform that was used during the Spring lockdown and is currently used for homework.

Broad Way, High Heath, Pelsall, Walsall. WS4 1BW | **Principal:** Stuart Turnbull

Telephone: 01922 685777 | **Email:** postbox@scacademy.co.uk | **Website:** www.scacademy.co.uk



@OrmistonShelfield



@ShelfieldCA



@ShelfieldAcademy

Aspiration Positivity Responsibility Achievement



Students have been using Teacher Dashboard for some time now, including for accessing and submitting homework last term. The details of how to access Teacher Dashboard can be found on the home page of the school website. This includes a comprehensive guide and a walk-through video. Students should complete the work as per their existing timetable. It is expected that they should download, complete and submit the work back to their teacher during the times of their timetabled lessons.

Your child's class teacher will be available to support with remote learning by answering questions about the work during the timetabled lesson times. Students should use the Question and Answer section of Teacher Dashboard if they are unsure of the work they need to complete. For example, if the students have Maths on Monday Period 1, they should log on to Teacher Dashboard at 9:00am, download and complete the work then submit their work for their teacher to check. At 10:00am they should download the work that has been set for their Period 2 lesson and complete the same process.

We appreciate that this change is short notice and may inconvenience you, but it is essential that we closely follow all Government guidance on COVID-19 in order to safeguard our students, staff and wider school community.

The Government has also announced a mass testing program, and in an official statement has confirmed that all secondary schools will be able to test their staff and students in a round of free coronavirus testing from the first week of January. We are expecting more details to be released about this over the holiday period and will write out to you again when we know more.

We look forward to seeing your child, either engaging in their lessons on the remote learning platform from 4th January and then in person from Monday 11th January; or on the 4th January if your child is classed as vulnerable, you are a key worker, or if your child is in year 10, 11, 12 or 13.

Thank you for your continued support and understanding. The Government is expected to release more guidance for schools over the holiday period and therefore I expect to be in touch with you again prior to the start of term to communicate our final plans for January and details around the mass testing program.

Take care and we wish you a Merry Christmas. I am sure that we all have the same hopes for a more normal 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Turnbull
Principal

