



ST/KJP

6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your families are well.

I have written to you twice during the holidays following Government announcements about when students would return to school this term. I am sorry to be writing to you again so soon on this subject, however, as you will have seen, the Prime Minister has announced a new national lockdown because of rising infection rates of Covid-19 and to try to prevent the further spread of the virus.

As part of this national lockdown, our academy will be closed until at least the end of half term in February, except for children of key workers or vulnerable children. **For all other students, our school is closed until at least the end of the February half-term.**

### **Keyworker and vulnerable children**

**If you or your partner is a key worker, or if your child is classed as vulnerable**, then the school will remain open to you. For information on those listed by the Government as vulnerable or a key worker please visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>. If your child requires this provision please let the academy by emailing [keyworker@scacademy.co.uk](mailto:keyworker@scacademy.co.uk) with your child's name and year group. Students attending will need to wear full school uniform.

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school as safe as possible, and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the safety measures in place at our school for those still eligible to attend:

- All students and staff must wear a face covering in communal areas, unless exempt
- Everyone is expected to remain in their allocated bubbles
- Students are encouraged to wash/sanitise their hands regularly throughout the day

### **Examinations update**

The Prime Minister also announced that "not all exams" would go ahead as normal this year and that there would be alternative arrangements. He said the Government would set out further details on this at a later date and when that information is announced we will update parents of those students who are due to take exams this year. We have been informed that public vocational exams and assessments scheduled to take place in January will go ahead as planned.

### **Remote learning**

High-quality remote learning will be provided to make sure students continue to receive a consistent education. We know that this places pressure on you at a difficult time, but your support in helping your child engage with the remote learning as much as possible is so important, and we are very grateful for it. Students will continue to follow their normal school timetable virtually and staff are working live to support your child's education at the allocated times on the timetable.

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

**Telephone:** 01922 685777 | **Email:** [postbox@scacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@scacademy.co.uk) | **Website:** [www.scacademy.co.uk](http://www.scacademy.co.uk)



@OrmistonShelfield



@ShelfieldCA



@ShelfieldAcademy

**Aspiration Positivity Responsibility Achievement**



As you are aware, currently teachers set work through Teacher Dashboard which is accessed through Office 365. There have been some technical difficulties with the Teacher Dashboard platform which is due to the high volume of traffic it is receiving from schools across the country. This is completely out of our control. As it is our aim to provide students with high-quality remote learning resources and to ensure they receive a consistent, uninterrupted education, we have decided to move to an alternative platform, still within Office 365 called Teams.

### **Accessing Microsoft Teams from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January**

The way to access students' work remains unchanged as students still go through Office 365 ([www.office.com](http://www.office.com)) using the same username and password as now. We appreciate that this might bring about some initial anxiety in the transition period, however we are confident that moving to Teams will provide a simplified and more reliable platform in which to deliver remote learning. It is also our intention to use this platform in order to host live and pre-recorded year group assemblies. (Further detail regarding these will be communicated in due course.)

**Lessons will switch to Teams from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January.** For the rest of this week, remote learning resources will continue to be sent via Teacher Dashboard and student email. On the homepage of the academy website you will find support with the transition to Teams under 'Remote Learning Support'. Here you will find a video walkthrough that will guide you and your child through accessing, completing and submitting assignments on Teams. A PDF version is also available here, should you wish to use this.

### **Access to appropriate devices for remote learning**

Last term we contacted you several times about remote learning access. You were asked to complete a questionnaire about your child's access to IT devices and its availability at home. Academy staff also contacted you by telephone to discuss this to ensure that your child would be able to access remote learning. The academy has supported those families who requested IT support by providing equipment to allow them to continue their education at home. We appreciate that circumstances change and so if your child now requires IT support, please either email [ITsupport@scacademy.co.uk](mailto:ITsupport@scacademy.co.uk) or contact the school office on 01922 685777. The academy will then try to secure additional IT equipment from central government in order to support this.

### **SIMS Parent App**

As I have said in previous letters, we are moving our home school/communication to the SIMS Parent App and many parents have already activated their accounts. For those parents or students who have not activated their SIMS Parent or Student account you will receive an email from [no-reply@sims.co.uk](mailto:no-reply@sims.co.uk) in the next 24 hours; if this does not appear in your inbox please check your junk email folder. Please follow the instructions in the email to register your account. There are 'how to' guides on our website along with videos showing you how to set up your account.

We will continue to stay in touch with you about your child's education and keep you updated as further information is announced. I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation. Please continue to take care and to stay safe.

Yours sincerely

Mr Stuart Turnbull  
Principal

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

**Telephone:** 01922 685777 | **Email:** [postbox@scacademy.co.uk](mailto:postbox@scacademy.co.uk) | **Website:** [www.scacademy.co.uk](http://www.scacademy.co.uk)



@OrmistonShelfield



@ShelfieldCA



@ShelfieldAcademy

**Aspiration Positivity Responsibility Achievement**