

Thursday 31st December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Covid-19 Update: Arrangements for Beginning of Term

I hope that you and your families are enjoying a safe and restful holiday period.

Further to my letter to you prior to Christmas, the Government has announced that the staggered return to school at the beginning of January will now take place over a longer time period for schools. This is both to reduce the risk of Covid-19 spreading further and also to ensure that every secondary school is fully prepared to carry out the mass testing of students when they return.

As a result of this announcement therefore, our spring term will begin as follows:

- Year 11: From 5th - 8th January, students will access a their curriculum online and we currently expect a return to face-to-face learning on Monday 11th January. More details to follow on Monday 4th.
- All other Year Groups 7-10: For the first two weeks of term, students will access a their curriculum online. It is planned that they will return to school during the week of 18th January. Further details that set out exactly when during that week your child must come into school will be sent to you in due course.

Full details of the online curriculum for each Year Group will be sent out in a further update by end of Monday 4th January

The children of key workers and those who are classed as vulnerable are able to return to school on **5th January**. We ask that you use the following link <http://bit.ly/ALBKWCP> to let us know if you meet the key/critical worker definition and you absolutely need you child to access school or if you are unable to access the link contact us via parenthelp@albionacademy for a place. Those children classed as vulnerable will be contacted by us directly.

Pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals will be sent vouchers in the same way as we did prior to the Christmas break, this was done in conjunction with Salford Local Authority and we expect the same to continue in January. Should there be any last-minute alterations or changes we will update you as soon as we know.

The Government has also announced that all secondary schools are now formally required to undertake Covid-19 testing of students and staff when they return to school. Our plans to do this are already in hand and next week we will be sending you further details of how this will operate and a consent form which we would ask you to sign. We intend to use an online format in order to quickly obtain the information and consent we need from you.

These are obviously challenging times for the country as a whole with cases of Covid-19 rising both locally

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nationally. Our priority at all times, however, is to do everything we can to ensure each student receives as full and normal a curriculum as possible either in school or at home so we can continue to minimise the disruption that the pandemic causes to their education.

Thank you in advance for your assistance and support for your child in their education during these times. It remains vital that, despite the ongoing challenges, every student continues to follow their online curriculum in full and comes to school as and when they are required to do so. **If however your child has either tested positive for Covid-19 , is already self-isolating or is displaying any symptoms of the virus on the day they are due to return to school, please do not send them to school but you should instead isolate for 10 days. If you are unsure do contact Spirit of Salford helpline or the NHS for further guidance and information on what you need to do.**

May I wish you a safe, happy and healthy New Year.

Mr J Roberts
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