



The Albion Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

23rd December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Important Update: Arrangements for January

Further to my communication with you last week, I wanted to update you on our plans for the beginning of term.

As you may have seen, the Department for Education has announced that secondary schools will adopt a staggered approach to students' return in January in order to reduce the risk of Covid-19 spreading further in our community. For most students this represents a change to the arrangements for the week of 4th – 8th January and will require some Year Groups to access remote learning during that week. The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson announced on Monday evening (21/12/2020) that schools will return in January 2021 *"if we possibly can"*.

Therefore, the current arrangements for the beginning of Term will be as follows:

- There already is a calendared INSET training day on Monday 4th January which will remain.
- Currently Year 11 will return to school as planned on 5th January bar any further changes that could be announced by the Government between now and January 2021.
- Years 7 to 10 will learn from home from 5th to 8th January with a likely return to school on Monday 11th January, again depending on updated advice and guidance from the Government, Department for Education and SAGE. A full curriculum will be offered and will be available via TEAMS.
- So, in light of the current changes we have postponed the internal exams for Year's 7-10, which were due to take place in the week of 11th January onwards. We will provide a more concrete update on dates/times when we have a fuller more detailed picture about the possible national and regional impact of the coronavirus.
- Our planned INSET on 15th January 2021 is also likely to be moved to an alternative date which we will communicate with you upon the return to school.
- We will also provide an update on any Year 10 pupils who may have an upcoming Btec/vocational exam with specific arrangements for them.

These changes do not impact on children of key workers and students who are designated as vulnerable. They are able to come to school from the very beginning of term on 5th January, unless there is any national directive that indicates anything different.

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If 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 in to school** but contact us for further information on what you need to do using covid@albionacademy.co.uk

From January, students at secondary schools across the country will also be able to access regular Covid-19 testing. By doing so, this means that, if we experience a positive case within one of our bubbles, students who have been in close contact with the individual will not have to self-isolate if they themselves continue to receive a negative test. This will enable more of our students to continue learning safely within school and minimise disruption to all our normal routines, both at school and at home.

We will write to you with further details about the testing process and the relevant parental permission forms at the beginning of term. Our intention is to begin testing each Year Group during **their** first week back in school.

Thank you in advance for your support and cooperation.

May I wish you a very safe, restful and happy Christmas holiday.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Roberts

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