

Ark Putney Academy
Pullman Gardens
London
SW15 3DG



Principal: Ms Alison Downey

Preparing every student to be a pillar of any community

1st January 2021

Dear parents and carers

I do hope you and your family have enjoyed the break over Christmas despite the restrictions.

Following the Government announcement on schools yesterday afternoon, I am writing to confirm revised arrangements for the first two weeks of the Spring Term.

As you are probably aware, the rising rates of coronavirus infection have led the Government to delay the return to face-to-face teaching in secondary schools. A staggered return is therefore required, with priority given to the year-groups facing public examinations in the summer (Years 11 and 13) alongside vulnerable students and the children of critical workers. Key arrangements for the next two weeks are as follows:

- Years 7-10 and the Year 12 will have remote teaching online from the start of term **on Thursday 7th January**. Students will follow their usual timetable of lessons via Microsoft Teams. They will be able to return to school for face-to-face teaching **on Monday 18th January**.
- Year 11 and Year 13 will also have remote lessons for the first week of term, **starting on Thursday 7th January**. However, students in these year-groups will be able to return to the school **on Monday 11th January at the normal time**
- We will continue to provide face to face education on site from **Thursday 7th January** for vulnerable students and the children of critical workers. We will be in contact with you next week to share with you how we will organise this. If you choose to send your child in they will work under supervision following their lessons in a computer room in the same way that students will do their remote learning

Over the holidays we have been working on plans to begin offering coronavirus testing for students and staff in school, and I will keep you updated on these arrangements as further information becomes available. This testing programme will help us to identify asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases and thus to reduce possible transmission in school, which will be beneficial. I am expecting to

Ark

Email: info@arkputneyacademy.org

Website: www.arkputneyacademy.org

Tel: 020 8788 3421

commence testing on Tuesday 5th January for all staff and we will then expect students to attend school to be tested over the two week period before full school returns on 18th January.

The rising rate of infection is naturally of concern to us, and we will be keeping the safety of our community at the heart of all our planning.

Wishing you a very happy New Year

Best wishes



Alison Downey

Principal



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