



Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear parent/carer,

I am sure that many of you will have already heard the news that yesterday the Government announced there will be a staggered return to school for secondary students at the start of term in January. As I am sure you can appreciate, we have not had much time to prepare for this, so I ask in advance for your patience while we work through the new arrangements.

I have summarised what we do know below, including the expectations for all students for the start of the new term.

**Start of term arrangements**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January** will remain as an INSET days and school will be closed to all students.

**Students in Year 11, Year 13**, those who are classed as vulnerable and children of critical workers will return to school on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**

All other year groups will start the term learning remotely at home. **On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January** you will receive notification/reminders of how to access remote learning through MS Teams.

**Years 7-10 and 12** students will return to school on **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January** for face-to-face teaching. Vocational exams scheduled to start from **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January** will go ahead as planned.

*The first six days school days of 2021 will look as follows:*

	Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Thurs 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Mon 11 <sup>th</sup> Jan
<b>Year 13</b>	INSET Day  School closed to all students	INSET Day  School closed to all students	In school			All pupils in school
<b>Year 12</b>			At home - remote learning			
<b>Year 11</b>			In school			
<b>Year 10</b>			At home - remote learning			
<b>Year 9</b>			At home - remote learning			
<b>Year 8</b>			At home - remote learning			
<b>Year 7</b>			At home - remote learning			



### **Vulnerable or critical worker children**

If your child is classified as vulnerable or you are a critical worker, your child is expected to attend school from **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**. Parents of students eligible under the vulnerable or critical worker groups will be asked to complete a form **on January 4<sup>th</sup>** to access this scheme

### **Testing**

This staggered start will support the Government's plan to roll out mass testing for the coronavirus for staff and students in secondary schools across England to stop the virus spreading. Students attending in the first week of terms will be given these testing dates. Testing is optional, but is strongly encouraged, especially as the virus is so prevalent.

This roll-out of testing will need careful planning to ensure it is a success. I will contact you again on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January** to explain how testing will operate at our school. We still need more information from the Department for Education to help us with this planning.

Please remember that if your child/children display any of the COVID-19 symptoms, you must not send them to school. You must arrange for them to have a test, please visit the [NHS](https://www.nhs.uk) website for information. This is vitally important as it ensures that our staff and students stay as safe as they can be.

I am sorry that this news comes so close to the Christmas break and I want to thank you again for all the support you have given the school over the last few months. Please remember that if your child/children display any COVID-19 symptoms over the holidays, you should arrange for them to have a test

I hope you and your family have a restful and enjoyable festive break.

Best wishes,

Ms A Downey  
PRINCIPAL

**Ark Putney Academy**



*Preparing every student to be a pillar in any community*