



Christleton High School

Emailed on 31st December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

You have no doubt heard that the government has ordered the delay to the start of the spring term and I am writing to update you on our plans for the coming weeks.

As we announced before Christmas, Monday the 4th of January will be an inset day, **with staff only in school**. This will give staff time to plan for remote learning for the next couple of weeks. It will also be an opportunity for senior staff to start to plan for the rollout of the mass testing programme that the government has asked us to look at. Whilst this is not a mandatory requirement of schools, we are looking at the logistics to see if we can meet the requirements of carrying out testing on school premises. What is clear, however, is that schools will not be able to complete the government plans without the help of volunteers; we also need parental permission to carry out testing and I will write to you again early next week with further details. I have already had some offers of help from parents, but we will need more, in order to carry out the programme.

From **Tuesday 5th January** - we expect only those (Years 7 -10) students who are the children of key workers and vulnerable students to attend school. Mr Smith made contact with parents and carers of relevant children, prior to breaking up for the Christmas holidays. These students will follow their normal timetable in their usual classroom, which may mean that they are the only student in that classroom for lessons; teachers will, of course, be present and will be leading on-line learning at the same time. We are asking that you only send children into school if you meet the above criteria - ie your child has been identified as vulnerable or you are a key worker and there are no alternative childcare options. We will review the list of attendees on Monday and contact you again to confirm placements.

During this week, all other students will remain at home, following their normal timetabled lessons. Please make sure that your children follow the pattern of their normal school day; lesson materials may be posted in advance of lessons taking place, but many lessons, especially for Years 10 and above, will also have live elements to them, when the class teacher will be online, delivering elements of the lesson live to students.

We expect Year 11 and 13 students to return to school during the week commencing 11th January and all other Year groups to return during the week commencing 18th January. The government have made it clear however, that this may be subject to change.

This is not an ideal return to school, but, given the increased transmission rates caused by the new variant to the virus, it is clear that the government is taking a more cautious approach to the return to school.

The start of 2021 will to some extent, be very similar to the close of 2020. The testing regime does not remove our need to continue to follow safety and hygiene regulations - face masks are still compulsory in all communal areas, hand washing/sanitising must continue to be encouraged and social distancing must still be observed. The restrictions around Year group bubbles, still apply.

Any student or member of staff who does not wish to be routinely tested, but who subsequently tests positive or has close contact with someone who tests positive, will still have to follow self-isolation procedures, as will anyone who displays symptoms. I urge all parents and carers to reinforce the importance of following safety advice and not to send their children to school if they display any of the symptoms of the virus - self-isolation rules still apply.

It is vital that all contact details are up to date so that we are able to contact parents and carers quickly. Please could you send any changes via the Edulink app.

The rollout of the new vaccines does offer hope, but in the meantime, we must show patience and resilience, as we have all shown in abundance up to now. Please do not contact school until further updates have been issued on Monday.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "D.P. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'J'.

D P Jones
Headteacher