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1st January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Staggered return for secondary schools (Update)

Happy New Year! I hope that you have all had a relaxing, festive break. You may have heard that the Government has now announced a change to the proposed staggered return of children in January, so that schools can plan for mass testing early in the Spring term. This is a huge logistical initiative for school leaders. Frustratingly, this changes our plans for the start of term. Therefore, following the guidance on return to school dates, which was published late evening on Wednesday 30th December by the Department for Education, plans for the start of term are as follows:

Year 11

Wednesday 6th January – pupils will be taught online, following their normal timetable.

Monday 11th January – pupils will return to school and will follow their normal timetable with lessons in normal rooms with their subject teachers. It is clear that the government intend to allow GCSE exams to take place. Therefore, mock exams are now planned to start w/c Monday 18th January. Please rest assured that we will do everything in our power to ensure Year 11 pupils are not disadvantaged by the challenging circumstances we are currently living in.

Years 7, 8, 9 and 10

Wednesday 6th January – pupils will be set learning via **Show My Homework**, following their timetable. Please be aware that pupils' timetables in years 7, 8 and 9 have changed due to changes in staffing. (This can be viewed on School Gateway. Pupils' calendars in MS Teams are also in the process of being updated.)

Monday 11th January – pupils will be taught online, following their new timetable.

Monday 18th January – pupils will return to school as normal.

We will endeavor to make as many of the remote lessons via **MS Teams** where possible (Year 11 from Wednesday 6th January and Years 7-10 from Monday 11th January). Pupils should log on using their school email address and go to the calendar to join lessons. Pupils should also check Show My Homework.

However, children of critical workers and vulnerable children will be able to attend school, and they will be based in year group bubbles and will also follow the remote learning online as detailed above. To allow us to plan accordingly, please book a place asap, and before Tuesday 5th January, by clicking on this link

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=IS-QeKDA6Uegq8MIpMkgw3pbxjcX15NCuD4FRzS-UPNUMFUxWUIQUkxYNFJU0cyNURGMElwRVhjUj4u> If you have any queries regarding this, please email NMoores@parrenthorn.com

From the 6th January, we will provide a food parcel for children entitled to free school meals. Please contact the office to arrange collection.

Important information about the mass testing of staff and students will follow soon. I apologise in advance for the volume of information that will be sent in the coming days. As ever, thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Chris Bell

Headteacher, Parrenthorn High School

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