30 December 2020

Dear parent/carer,

Update on Staggered Re-Opening for January 2021

I hope this update finds you all safe and well and having enjoyed a happy and healthy Christmas.

Further to my letter to you on 18 December 2020, I write to confirm the arrangements for the start of the Spring term following the Secretary of State’s announcement this afternoon.

The Government has directed schools and academies to stagger the return of secondary and Post 16 age pupils/students back to schools. Our response will be set out to ensure that effective education can continue, arrangements for voluntary testing can begin to take place, and to also reduce the spread of the virus as pupils/students and staff return after Christmas.

Arrangements for w/c 4 January 2021:

- All year groups to remain at home.
  - We are currently finalising arrangements for the provision of remote learning and further information regarding this will be issued to parents/carers via a letter and to pupils/students via the pupil Sharepoint site as soon as possible in advance of Monday 4 January.

- Emergency Care and Vulnerable pupils/students only on site.
  - Vulnerable children and children of critical workers are able to attend the academy if required.
  - In order for the academy to plan and facilitate this provision, we ask for all parents/carers intending to send their child/children to school during the first week(s) of term falling into either of these categories to complete the online Booking Request Form at https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=EENLhb8NQUKuQU3wpPjbkr-k6D20I2hGmWdRbmXP5E5UNDEzWY1QjITWUVP058NzBRDg0SU5WVC4u.
  - If you are unsure about whether or not you or your child falls into one of these categories, please refer to the Government guidance which can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision.
  - Please submit your booking form by no later than Saturday 2 January 2021.
  - Upon receipt of your request for an Emergency Care/Vulnerable Pupil place for your child, the academy will confirm arrangements with you on Sunday 3 January.

Arrangements for w/c 11 January 2021

- Designated year groups will return to the academy for on-site learning. Further communications will be issued during the first week of term to confirm the arrangements for these pupils/students.
Where year groups are not identified as returning to the academy, remote learning provision will be provided.

**Arrangements for w/c 18 January 2021**

- It is the intention at this point, that all year groups will return to the academy for onsite learning.
- Further communications will be issued in due course to confirm the arrangements in this respect.

**External Examinations**

We are aware that there are some external examinations that currently remain scheduled to take place during the first few weeks of term. We will update affected pupils/students and parents/carers as soon as possible with regards to arrangements in preparation for these exams.

**Mass Testing Programme**

This directive from the Government to stagger the return of pupils/students is also to allow schools and academies an initial period of time in which to plan and launch the voluntary mass Covid-19 testing programme for pupils/students and staff.

We are positive about the potential for the mass testing of pupils/students and staff in schools, as a way of reducing the spread of the virus and enabling fewer pupils/students and staff to have to self-isolate.

Setting up this programme in the academy will be a complex operation requiring detailed planning and training of staff involved in the process. We will be accessing all available Government guidance and implementing procedures as soon as we realistically can over the coming weeks.

We will let you know more about our plans as soon as we can in January along with details on how we will seek consent for the testing of your child/children. Please be assured testing is only undertaken with the appropriate consents in place.

In order to facilitate the volume of testing required, the academy may require paid volunteers to support on site testing arrangements. If you would be willing to volunteer, have any relevant experience/transferrable skills, and/or have first aid and/or direct experience with administering lateral flow testing, please contact enquiries@accordmat.org using the subject of the email as ‘Volunteer’. Initially we are looking to secure expressions of interest to support the planning and implementation of the process.

In the meantime, we will continue to implement the safety measures we have been using in the autumn term and operate our academy day in line with our risk assessment which can be found on the academy website.

**Free School Meals**

Further details will be provided as soon as possible with regard to any arrangements for pupils/students eligible for free school meals during the period where those pupils/students are not in the academy.

**Notification of positive Covid-19 cases**

As a reminder the academy has an electronic questionnaire for the reporting of positive Covid-19 cases. Please continue to use this form to update the academy if your child tests positive. We would ask all parents/carers to use this reporting mechanism on an ongoing basis until further notice and during this period of staggered re-opening. The form can be found at: https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=EENLhb8NQUKuQU3wpPjbkvPk5kKe-nhPmtF8ayE89qFUODRNSTNP1NDVlhaSURGNVpRN0tBWDNJMi4u
Please accept my apologies for providing this update so near to the start of the new term. This has been unavoidable due to the timing and quantity of government guidance issued at different stages over the Christmas period.

In conclusion, I will keep you informed on a regular basis and look forward to welcoming all pupils/students back to the academy at the designated times.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support and wish you all a very happy and healthy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

Mrs S Broome
Principal