

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the announcement on Wednesday 30th December from the Secretary of State contradicting the previous guidance issued immediately after Christmas, our plans for the start of term have consequently altered.

Monday 4th January will continue to be a Development Day to prepare the school for mass testing.

Tuesday 5th – Friday 8th January – all year groups will have on-line learning. There may be more pre-recorded lessons than usual as we will be starting to test staff and some pupils

Monday 11th – Friday 15th January – years 11 and 13 will be in school for their PPEs (Monday 11th will be face to face teaching and exams will start on Tuesday 12th). A revised PPE schedule will be sent to all year 11 and year 13 pupils next week via their school email. All other year groups will have online learning. We will be bringing year groups into school to continue the mass testing this may impact on some lessons through the week.

Monday 18th January – all year groups will be in school. Years 11 and 13 will continue with their PPEs. Mass testing will continue through this week so there will be some disruption to learning.

Any formal exams (BTEC, LIBF) due to run from 4th January will run as planned during this time.

We will be in contact next week to give you further advice and guidance about Lateral Flow Testing and when your son or daughter will need to be in school to be tested. We would advise that all pupils are tested but if your child is in years 7-11 this will only happen if you have signed the consent letter which you will receive next week. It is vital that your child attends their scheduled testing appointment. More information about testing will follow next week.

There will be some spaces made available in school for children in all years for those considered vulnerable. Parents/carers of these students will be contacted directly. We will also make spaces available for children whose parents are frontline emergency service workers, education or healthcare professionals and who need genuine support with childcare provision. Given the extreme pressures on staffing, our intention to remain open to some year groups and to deliver high quality remote learning, we would ask that you request access to this provision only if in genuine need. In order to apply to access this provision please contact Mrs Smith (Deputy Headteacher) at smithm@sgsce.co.uk detailing your circumstances as relevant to the aforementioned criteria.

Please do not send your child into school for any reason if they are displaying any of the three main COVID-19 symptoms

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature and/or
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

Thank you again for your continued support in these most challenging of times.

Yours sincerely



Matt Lillie
Head of School



Stephen Carey
Executive Headteacher