

Dear parents and carers

I am writing to update you on the plans for the start of term, following the government's announcements over the Christmas break.

The following explains what you need to know for this week and next week.

Dates for students to return to school

Students in Y11 and Y13 will return to school as expected on Monday 11th January. They will be supported with home learning from Wednesday 6th to Friday 8th January through lessons on Microsoft Teams which will follow their normal timetable.

Students in all other year groups (with some exceptions explained below) will return to school on Monday 18th January. They will be able to access support for remote learning from Wednesday 6th to Friday 15th January. Further detail of this support is included below.

During the time when students are working from home, those who are children of key workers can be supervised in school if this is needed to allow parents to work, in a similar way to the arrangement during lockdown. Parents of students in Y7 to Y10 and Y12 should already have contacted school if they needed this provision on any of the days from Wednesday 6th to Friday 8th January.

If you have a child in Y11 or Y13 and need to take up this provision on any of the days from Wednesday 6th January to Friday 8th January please email Mrs Giles at sgiles@notredame-high.co.uk by the end of Tuesday 5th January, so that we know who we are expecting.

If you have a child in Y7 to Y10 or Y12 and need to take up this provision on any of the days from Monday 11th to Friday 15th January please email Mrs Giles at sgiles@notredame-high.co.uk by the end of Friday 8th January, so that we know who we are expecting.

Students who take up this provision will attend for the normal school day and will be supervised in the Open Learning Centre, where they will be able to access the remote learning provided by their teachers.

We will also be able to have in school any students with an Education Health Care Plan, or any student who has a social worker. We will be making contact directly with these students and some others who we know may need additional support until the date when they return to school as normal.

We anticipate that the normal school bus routes will be running from 11th January.

Remote Learning Support

This will follow the same pattern that students are engaging with for the last two days of this term.

- All students will log on to Teams for form time, where their form tutor will register them and check that they are set up for the day.
- Students in Y11 and Y13 will have Teams lessons which follow their normal timetable (from Wednesday 6th to Friday 8th January)

- Students in Y7 to Y10 and Y12 will do the work set in the lessons on their timetable for that day. They will access the work they need to do along with support resources through the Home Learning Curriculum Plans on the Home Learning section of the website. Teachers will provide additional information, collect work or give feedback through ShowMyHomework or, where appropriate, through Microsoft Teams. Where teachers are interacting with students through ShowMyHomework, or Microsoft Teams, this will be at the time when their lessons would normally have run.

Access to Mass Testing

We are currently working through the guidance that is coming out around the offer of mass testing for all students and staff before school fully resumes site on 11th January. We do expect to be able to offer a test for all students and all members of staff. The working plan has changed since I last wrote to you. We are now planning to offer tests to students in Y11 and Y13 on Monday 11th January with follow up tests on Thursday 14th January. Tests for students in other year groups will be offered on Tuesday 12th January with follow up on Friday 15th January. This will involve students in Y7 to Y10 and Y12 coming in to school for their test only, then returning home.

Testing is not compulsory. Y11 and Y13 students will be expected to return on Monday 11th January and students in all other year groups will be expected to return on Monday 18th January whether or not they have had the test. However, we hope that as many people as possible take up the offer as it will help to ensure that anyone who is positive will be able to isolate, reducing the chance of transmission in school once all students return.

I am sure that you understand that, at this stage, this plan for testing is a working plan and is subject to change as we get more information from the government. We will of course write with more details about the test on Wednesday 6th January. You will be given the opportunity at that point to decide if it is something you want for your child.

General reminder about Covid rules

Even with the offer of mass testing, the normal rules still apply that, if your child has Covid symptoms, they should not come into school and should book a test through the normal route. We would also say that if your child is unwell, even without the typical Covid symptoms, then they should stay off school until they feel well, even if they would normally come into school. This helps to minimise the chance of spread of the infection and keep everyone safe.

As always, thank you for your support in these ever changing times.

Yours sincerely



Mr S Davies