



The Talentum Learning Trust

Westwood
College

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Our Ref: TLY/jc

21st December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

JANUARY 2021

You will probably have seen or read the news stories this week about schools and colleges being asked to implement a phased start to the spring term, and being invited to set up a mass Covid testing programme for pupils and staff. I am writing to you today to explain how Westwood College school intends to respond to these last-minute Government requests.

We will follow the Government guidance on how to phase the start of term, which is intended to ensure effective education can continue but also reduce the spread of the virus as pupils and staff return after Christmas. This means the following:

Phased start to term

On Tuesday 5th January, the following pupils should come in to school:

- Students in Year 11;
- Students in Year 13;

Children of critical workers and those identified as Vulnerable can also attend. If you are unsure about whether or not your child falls into one of these categories, please contact us on www.office@ttl.org.uk for confirmation by Monday 4th January.

Year 12 vocational (BTEC) students will be contacted by their teachers to confirm whether they need to attend. Any scheduled examinations will go ahead as planned.

During this first week of term, all other pupils should stay at home. We will be providing remote education for those pupils in keeping with the contingency timetable. This can be accessed via the website at <https://www.ttl.org.uk/students/support-for-students/>. Students should monitor their school email to ensure they receive communication from their teachers.

It is planned that all students will return from Monday 11th January, though we will of course keep you updated should this change.



Mass testing programme

We are positive about the potential for the mass testing of pupils and staff in schools, as a way of reducing the spread of the virus and enabling fewer pupils and staff to have to self-isolate. You can read more about how the Government expects this programme to work [here](#).

Setting up this programme in schools is an incredibly complex operation. We have been sent some information about how it should work already, but more detailed guidance is expected to be produced by the Government over the Christmas holiday period.

We will not, therefore, be in position to have this programme up and running as soon as the spring term starts. At the start of term, we will review what the expectations are, what support is available from the Government or other agencies, and what we can realistically deliver.

We will let you know more about our plans as soon as we can in January. In the meantime, from the start of next term, we will continue to implement the safety measures we have been using in the autumn term.

Please accept our apologies for having to send this letter after term has already ended. We are having to respond to a vast quantity of extremely last minute and complex Government guidance.

Thank you for your patience, and all best wishes for a safe and enjoyable Christmas holiday.

Yours faithfully



Mr M Taylor
Headteacher