



COVID-19 UPDATE 6

17th December 2020, 4.45pm

Dear Parents/Carers,

IMPORTANT: CHANGE TO START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS FROM 4TH JANUARY 2021

This afternoon, just as we were on the point of sending our students home for a well-deserved break at the end of what has been a long and challenging term, we [received information from the DfE](#) about changes to the start of term arrangements for secondary schools in England. The information we have at the time of writing this letter (4.45pm), and how this will impact upon Prince Henry's is as follows:

- **Students in Years 11, 12 and 13, vulnerable children and the children of critical workers will attend school in person from Monday 4th January 2021. (Mr Freeman will send a separate letter to the parents/carers of vulnerable children.)**
- **Students in Years 9 and 10 will receive 'full-time remote education, as close as possible to that which students would get in class' - ie via Microsoft Teams and Show My Homework - for the week commencing 4th January.**
- **Students in Years 9 and 10 will return to school to resume normal face-to-face lessons on Monday 11th January 2021**

One purpose of the staggered start to the term is to enable schools to introduce the programme of free coronavirus testing. The DfE's statement says:

'...the round of testing will help to reassure students, parents and teachers about returning to school and college.

The round of testing will also help to tackle the one in three who have the virus but do not have symptoms, so could be spreading the disease unknowingly, and minimise disruption during the spring term by helping identify positive cases when pupils return to face-to-face education following the Christmas break.

Schools and colleges will be able to establish testing to offer students two rapid tests three days apart, with positive results confirmed by a lab-based PCR test.

Guidance will shortly be provided to schools and colleges on how to set up and staff the testing sites. Armed forces personnel will support directly through planning with schools and colleges.

Those students attending face-to-face education in the first week of term will be offered the first testing dates.

Testing will be optional but strongly encouraged, particularly in areas of higher prevalence of the virus. Consent will be required from the student or parent as appropriate.'

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Working in collaboration with Bredon Hill and St Egwin's Middle Schools

We anticipate that further information will be issued in the coming days, but as the school will be closed for two weeks following tomorrow's TED Day, I felt it was important to share this information with you as soon as possible.

Should any student be unfortunate enough to develop symptoms and test positive for COVID-19 during the holiday period, please see my [COVID-19 Update 4](#), dated 7th December, for guidance on the action that needs to be taken. As a reminder, *'students who develop COVID-19 symptoms and test positive on or after 00.01hrs on Sunday 20th December will not need to inform the school but will be required to self-isolate for 10 days and their close contacts will be identified through the national Contact Tracing Service (CTS). There will be no action for the school.'*

Following the recent reduction in the time required to self-isolate from 14 to 10 days, we have updated the COVID-19 Related Student Absence: Guidance for Parents document which is in the COVID-19 Updates area of the website.

Unless we issue a further update before 4th January (which will most likely be by text message), please assume that the start of term arrangements outlined above will be implemented.

During the past term, the students have been exemplary. Thank you for all of your support and may I take this opportunity to wish you and your families all the very best for Christmas and the New Year.

Stay safe,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A Evans'.

Dr A Evans
Headteacher

