

18 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Rollout of Coronavirus Testing for Secondary Schools from January

You may have seen that the Government have announced that all secondary schools in England will be able to test more of their staff and students by setting up testing in schools from the first week of January. This is an integral part of the national priority to keep education open to all and to help fight the spread of the virus whilst keeping schools safe. Further information will be provided on this when we have more detail from the government.

As the news regarding testing and staggered starts is very new to us, we will need time to plan for this, government guidance is currently not available to do this. The government have suggested that secondary schools have an extra training day on 4th January in order to do this.

In line with government guidelines the 4th January will now be a training day for Montsaye pupils. No pupils to attend on 4th January 2021.

Staggered Start to Term

Montsaye Academy will operate a staggered return for students in years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 with online/remote learning available to them for the first week ie until Friday 8th January.

This means that students in years 7,8,9,10 and 12 will not return to attending school until Monday 11th January.

The remote learning available to them during this first week of term will mirror, as close as possible, the learning that students would have received had they been in school.

For years 7, 8 and 9, this will mean 4 hours of 'live' lessons per day, and one hour of independent work set by maths, English and science, or one hour of exercise and wellbeing set by PE. Students will, on the whole, follow their school timetable and will receive invites via Microsoft Teams for 4 lessons per day. These lessons will contain a combination of live teaching, independent tasks, and will in some cases make use of other online platforms set by our staff. You child will need to download the mobile app (please use the google play store or the Apple Store) or the [desktop app for Microsoft Teams](#) via their device. For an instructional video explaining how to access lessons on Teams and use files via Teams, please follow the links [here](#) and [here](#) (to view this, your child will need to login using their school email and password).

For Years 10 and 12, they will receive invites for 5 lessons per day, except for core PE, again, they can also access the page to download Teams and the instructional video explaining how to join lessons via the links above.

All students will also be invited to a year group assembly with their Progress Leader on Tuesday 5th January, a drop in with their tutor on Wednesday 6th January, and a whole School Assembly on

Friday 8th January. All of these sessions will take place at 8.40am to start the day before lessons at 9am.

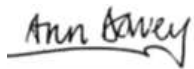
On Monday 4th January, if students wish to access extra work, they can find pre-recorded lessons or independent tasks from all subject areas on our website [here](#).

Students in years 11 and 13 will attend school from the start of term on the 5th of January 2021 as normal at 8.30am.

As in the first lockdown, schools will also ensure 'on site' provision for vulnerable students and for children of critical workers during this first week back. We will send more information about this on 4th January 2021.

This information is as fresh to us as it is to you and we feel sure there are many questions that may arise. As ever, our commitment and priority is to ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our pupils, staff and communities whilst supporting all to continue their education during the COVID 19 pandemic. As this is a rapidly changing situation we will communicate with you further if the situation changes.

We thank you for your ongoing support.



Ann Davey
Chief Executive – Pathfinder Schools



Meena Gabbi
Principal Montsaye Academy