

ASHLYNS SCHOOL



31 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you had a peaceful and relaxing Christmas break.

Following yesterday's announcement by the Secretary of State for Education, you will be aware that the phased return for secondary school aged children has been revised by the Department for Education.

In practical terms this means that the 'staggered start' will operate with a week's delay from that detailed in my end of term letter.

The table below outlines key dates and provision for each year group.

Key Dates:

Group	Monday 4 January	5 - 8 January **	Week beginning 11 January **	Week beginning 18 January **
Years 11/13	Inset Day	Remote learning	Return to school	Continue at school
Years 7-10 and 12	Inset Day	Remote learning	Remote learning	Return to school
Children of key workers / vulnerable students	Inset Day*	On site provision	On site provision	Continue at school

*Whilst there is no expectation that children of key workers/vulnerable students attend on site provision on Monday 4th January (Inset day), we will of course make provision for the normal school day should this be required.

**Normal school times will apply.

Remote learning

Students will receive remote learning during the period they are not expected in school. This will involve a mixture of video streams, 'live teaching' and tasks set by their teachers. More details will be sent at the start of the week; however, students should note that they will be expected to complete the tasks during their usual lesson time as per their timetable, and to register with their tutor 'live' each morning through Google Classroom at 8.35am.

Children of key workers / vulnerable students

If you believe that your child falls into this category (further details are included on the Google Form and can be found [here](#)) and you need your child(ren) to be supervised at school, **please complete the form [linked here](#) no later than this Saturday (2 January) at midday**, so we are able to organise our on-site provision accordingly.

Live lessons and Google Classroom can be accessed via any mobile device, including a mobile phone, but our onsite provision can accommodate students who do not have the IT facilities to access remote provision from home. If you believe your child falls into this category, please complete the Google form above.

Students should arrive, in school uniform, for a normal school-length day (8.35am - 3.20pm), reporting to reception on arrival.

Free School Meals

We will contact the parents of students who receive free school meals directly to inform them of the arrangements for the next two weeks. If your circumstances have changed and you think your child/ren might be eligible for free school meals please get in touch with whallahan@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk so that we can provide assistance with your application.

Public Examinations

The BTEC examinations will proceed as planned on the published dates.

Year 12 Examinations

Year 12 Trial Examinations, originally scheduled for week beginning 4 January, will now be postponed until w/c 18 January; Year 12 students will be set remote learning for the first two weeks of term instead.

Face coverings / safety measures on return to school:

On return to school, students should continue to wear face coverings (unless exempt) and follow all other safety measures and protocols as normal. This will be in addition to the 'rapid testing' which is planned for roll-out this term.

Rapid Covid19 Testing

This Government's plans for the staggered start is, in part, to facilitate additional Covid-19 testing in schools to help minimise the spread of the virus and the disruption caused. You will be aware that secondary-age pupils are being prioritised for testing. Further details on how this will operate will be sent out in due course.

Attendance arrangements

If your child is ill, please continue to notify us through the usual channels (attendance@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk) as soon as possible.

Tutors will be registering students online at 8.35am each day from Tuesday 5 January, to ensure your child is set up and ready for the day's learning.

Reminder about COVID Advice from HCC

As soon as your child or any member of your household develops symptoms, they must start self isolating immediately and book a test.

Main symptoms of coronavirus are:

- A high temperature
- A new, continuous cough – this means coughing a lot, for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- A loss or change to sense of smell or taste – this means they cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal
- If you're not sure whether symptoms suggest that they have COVID-19 or an everyday cough or cold, you can consult this online NHS symptom checker:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/>

Please do not send children back to school if any of the following apply:

- They have symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19)
- They, any members of your household, or any close contacts have tested positive for COVID-19
- They haven't completed the full 10 day isolation period required.

Whilst this will most certainly not be the final letter I write regarding arrangements related to Covid19, it is my final letter of 2020. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy New Year. Let's hope 2021 heralds a more settled and optimistic year for everyone.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shapland', written in a cursive style.

James Shapland
Headteacher