

29th December 2020

Subject: **Return to School in January**

Dear Parent / Carer

Given the fluidity of the circumstances surrounding Covid-19 and the inevitable uncertainty this engenders in schools, I have waited until this point to confirm what the first week in January will look like at Wellington. I held out a vain hope that we could bring all students back the week commencing 4th January but this would not be appropriate now and, indeed, contrary to Government guidance.

Sensibly, the Department for Education have granted secondary schools an additional planning day to prepare for the mass testing of staff and students. We will be using **Tuesday 5th January** for this purpose and, therefore, School will be **closed to all students**. N.B. thank you to those who volunteered to assist with this process and I will be in touch in due course.

From Wednesday 6th - Friday 8th January, the School will open **only for students in Year 11, Year 13, children of keyworkers and certain other students the DfE have rightly determined ought to be in School**. Students in this final category (most of whom attended during the first lockdown) will be contacted directly by School. If you are in one of the 'keyworker' categories and would like your child(ren) to attend School on these three days, please contact us at your earliest convenience to let us know.

Remote learning for students in all other year groups will commence that day. The Remote Learning plan was shared with parents in September and can be found on the website. It is important that students / parents are aware of lesson times and have access to Microsoft Teams.

All students are expected to return on Monday 11th January. Any changes to this date will be communicated in due course.

The Government intend for testing in School to begin the first week back (for the groups attending that week), therefore, I will be sending an additional email with further details of this and a consent form which must be completed as soon as possible. All other students will be tested w.c.11th January. Please note, all students will be tested twice (3-5 days apart).

I will, of course, be in touch should there be any changes to the above before the start of term.

Thank you for your continued support.

Regards

Mr S P Beeley
Headteacher