



31st December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Arrangements – January Return (Spring Term)

I hope you have all managed to have a good Christmas break and have stayed safe and well. I am writing to inform you of our revised plans for the start of the spring term on Monday 4th January 2021 given the government's updated announcement just yesterday afternoon. As you are aware from the letter I sent on the last day of term, we had prepared for a staggered return following the government's announcement on Thursday 17th December 2020 however, these dates have now changed again. It has been a very busy holiday for us ensuring we have all plans in place given the ongoing changing expectations and requirements of schools. I would like to thank those parents/carers who were asked to complete the survey(s) that we sent out at the beginning of the holidays in order for us to establish your needs and the intentions for your son/daughter returning to school following the Christmas holiday; this information is still relevant to us.

The timeline for students returning to school for on-site learning is now as follows:

- **Week commencing Monday 4th January 2021**
Only students who are considered to be in the vulnerable group and/or whose parents/carers are critical workers, as confirmed direct with school via the survey(s) we issued.
- **Week commencing Monday 11th January 2021**
Year 11 and Year 13 as well those students who were in from the week beginning Monday 4th January 2021.
- **Week commencing Monday 18th January 2021**
All students to be back in school.

All students who are not on-site are expected to follow their remote learning timetable from Monday 4th January 2021.

Please find below our updated plans by specific year groups.

All Years (students attending school from Monday 4th January 2021)

A number of parents/carers have requested that their child is in school because they are critical workers and/or the student is considered to be in a vulnerable group. If you completed one or both of our surveys to inform us of this then your child is expected to be in school as normal, to include for tutor time. Students will follow their normal timetable and adhere to uniform/dress code expectations. For some lessons teachers will be delivering both online and in-class learning. In some cases it may be that due to small class sizes classes are joined together within a year group bubble.

If you have confirmed with us that your child is coming in from Monday 4th January 2021 because you are a critical worker and/or your child is in a vulnerable group then they need to go to the following designated areas to be registered before following their usual timetable:

- Year 7 – Canteen
- Year 8 – Sports Hall
- Year 9 – Activities
- Year 10 – Drama Studio
- Year 11 – Drama Hall
- Year 12 – Common Room

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 Mark Rutherford School Company Number: 08316719



- Year 13 – The Vicinity

Year 11 only: Following the communication we sent out to just Year 11 yesterday, please email schoolclosures@mrus.co.uk by midday on Sunday 3rd January 2021 if you intend for your child to be in school because you are a critical worker and/or your child is considered to be in a vulnerable group. This is so we know which students to expect.

If your child travels to school using the Borough's school transport then this will operate as normal. Students are expected to continue to follow the rules around wearing a mask and sitting in their specific designated areas to ensure track and trace can be undertaken in the event of a positive case of COVID.

All Years (remote learning from Monday 4th January 2021)

For the majority of our students who will be studying at home in the weeks beginning Monday 4th January 2021 and Monday 11th January 2021 we expect the following:

- Students are to access all Zoom lessons in line with our published remote learning timetable – this can be found by going to our school website and then 'Curriculum' > 'MRS Curriculum' > 'Zoom Lessons'. Students are returning on a Week A. Students need to follow the menu to their year group and band in order to establish when their Zoom lessons will take place. Teachers will include a link to their Zoom lesson via the relevant course page on itslearning. Additional communication, to include any other independent work to be completed, will be set via eprise. Please ensure your son/daughter knows when their lessons are and that any password requests are made in a timely manner (please find a link to getting passwords reset [here](#) and scroll down towards the bottom of the page).
- Students should aim to complete at least four hours of study per day.
- Students are to complete the work set by their teachers and submit as per the teacher's instructions.
- Students are to adhere to the guidance in our Remote Learning policy to ensure all safeguarding expectations are met. A copy is available on our website and it can be found [here](#).

All students in Years 11 and 13 only (from Monday 11th January 2021)

Students in Years 11 and 13 are expected to be in school as normal, to include for tutor time. Students will follow their normal timetable and be expected to be in school on time and adhering to uniform/dress code expectations. The government have been clear that, at this stage, all external examinations will be going ahead for students studying GCSE, A Level and vocational qualifications. Given the rapidly changing situation, and in consultation with Bedford Borough, we will be working out how we facilitate the testing of students when they return. We will also be discussing the forthcoming mock exams and will update you as soon as we can.

BTEC Sport and Exercise Science, Performing Arts, Applied Science and IT – Years 12 and 13

A number of students in Years 12 and 13 have external exams for one of the courses mentioned above. The government have been clear that these exams will be going ahead. Students are expected to attend all Zoom lessons to support their preparation, as well as revise independently at home. Students will now only be in school for their exam. Plans for lessons in school for the week beginning Monday 11th January 2021 will be confirmed by the relevant subject lead as soon as possible.

Free School Meals

If your son/daughter is currently eligible for a free school meal and will also be studying remotely from home from the week beginning Monday 4th January 2021 then please email finance@mrus.co.uk so we

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MARK RUTHERFORD SCHOOL

can ensure a food parcel is available for you to collect. If your son/daughter is in school then our usual catering facilities will be available.

As it currently stands we expect students in Years 11 and 13 to return to school on Monday 11th January 2021 (Week B) and all other students on Monday 18th January 2021 (Week A).

We look forward to seeing the students either in person or via Zoom as of the start of term. We will keep you informed as to any further government announcements that affect schools as soon as we can. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and understanding in such challenging times.

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs K Foster
Deputy Headteacher

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