

Haggerston School

Aspiration, Creativity, Character

Headteacher's Newsletter - 1st January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

As I am sure you will be aware from the news, the government has changed the arrangements for the return to school in response to rapidly rising Covid 19 cases. I am therefore writing to you to clarify the situation for the first few weeks of term as far as I am able – there is, of course, no guarantee that things won't change again.

STAGGERED RETURN TO SCHOOL

As it stands, ALL students will now be learning remotely from **Wednesday 6th January** (the 4th and 5th were already planned as a staff training days). Most remote teaching will be provided via Google Meet and the DPR, and students will be expected to follow their usual timetables from Wednesday onwards, including logging on at 8.40 ready for their first lesson of the day. If you have any concerns about your child's readiness for remote learning, please see the guidance that has been included weekly in the Parent Newsletters and is also available on the website. If your child has specific problems with accessing remote learning from the 6th, please contact the school directly.

The only exception to these arrangements is that the school will be open from 6th January for a small number of keyworker or vulnerable students, who will be supervised whilst carrying out the same remote learning as other students. We are working on identification of who these students are and will be sending out a google form on Monday for parents to request places, if their child is eligible.

From **Tuesday 12th January**, students in Year 11 and 13 will return to school for face-to-face teaching. Other students will continue to learn remotely for the remainder of this week. Years 11 and 13 will attend school for their second Covid test on Monday 11th January so that this process will be complete and any positive cases identified before these year groups return to school for the rest of the week.

From **Monday 18th January**, all other students will return for face-to-face teaching.

COVID TESTING IN SCHOOLS

From Monday 4th January, we will be working to establish a mass testing regime at school. I will write to you again on Monday with more details and to ask for testing consent forms to be completed. We would be grateful if these could be completed as soon as possible so that the rollout of testing, which is a considerable operation, can happen smoothly. Testing for students will begin from Wednesday 6th January. If you are able to volunteer to support the testing process over the next couple of weeks, please also let us know as this would be very beneficial to the school.

In the meantime, when students do return to school, we will be following the same measures that have been so helpful in keeping the vast majority of students safe and healthy thus far. There has been good news about the rollout of vaccines over the last few weeks and it does seem as if we can start to look forward to a time when we can once again offer the broad range of activities, both curricular and extra-curricular, that make Haggerston such a special place to learn. However, it is all the more important that

we continue to do everything we can to lessen the risk of transmission in school until that time arrives. Social distancing and good hand hygiene, both in school and out, the importance of not attending school if you are feeling unwell and the requirement of following all the Tier 4 guidelines for our area are more important now than ever to bring down the prevalence of the virus in the coming weeks so that the school can re-open and stay open safely.

I will be in contact with you all again next week – until then best wishes for a Happy New Year.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CAO', with a wavy line extending to the right.

Ciara Emmerson
Headteacher