31 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope this correspondence finds you well after a relaxed Christmas period.

Yesterday, the Secretary of State announced changes to current plans for the return to schools in January. He said that *"evidence of a new COVID strain required immediate adjustment to our plans... I'm clear we must continue to do all we can to keep children in school."*

Primary schools in the area will open as planned. However, secondary schools have the adjustments I have noted for you below.

**What does the new guidance mean for my child?**

There will still be a staggered return to school for students in our secondary school. However, the dates have now changed to allow schools more time to prepare for the mass testing of students to start as soon as possible and continue until such time that it is unnecessary.

Details are below:

* 4th January 2021 INSET DAY to continue as planned. (School closed to students.)
* **5th January 2021, all year groups will start their learning for term 2 online.** Remote lessons will be taught live by your child’s regular teacher, at the usual time. Your child is expected to engage in all lessons and learning that is made available to them.
* **5th January 2021, Children of critical workers** and vulnerable students are invited to attend school as normal. Critical worker parents must notify reception on the **4th January** if you are expecting your child to be in attendance. These children will follow their normal timetable, in their normal classrooms. Staff will facilitate this by delivering hybrid lessons from the classroom. (Teaching children in the classroom at the same time as teaching live.) Students must not break the current ‘bubble’ arrangements that are in place.
* School staff will contact vulnerable students.
* **Year 11 and Year 13** will attend school at their normal time for a normal school day **11th January 2021.**
* **All other students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12** are expected to return to school full time from the **18th January 2021**. They will continue with their live lessons, as per their usual timetable for this second week.
* **SEND Learners** will receive the usual adaptations and additional support for their learning, which will be coordinated by our SENDCO Mrs Wylie. e.wylie@childwallssa.org
* **Students in Year 11, 12, 13 that are due to sit exams** in the first 2 weeks of term will do so as normal. **They will be contacted by school staff in person to ensure arrangements and expectations are clear.**
* Please note that **attendance** will be logged and reported to the Department for Education as usual. Communication regarding non-attendance will continue as normal. Students are expected to attend all 5 lessons remotely until they are back in school and should engage in the work set by their teachers. If your child is unwell, please contact school and notify our attendance officers.

**What are the arrangements for mass testing in schools?**

The government have now given schools more time and further guidance as to how mass testing in schools might be organised safely. Tests are expected to arrive in school next week. The Lydiate Learning Trust Board of Directors will meet on the 6th January 2021, as arranged, to discuss the appropriate course of action for Childwall Sports and Science Academy. I will contact you next week with further information regarding the detail of when and how your child will receive their test before returning to school full time. Please be aware that you will need to sign a consent form, ( that will be shared with you at the start of next week,) and that your child will need to test twice on their return to school.

Thank you once again for your patience and understanding.

Happy New Year to you all.

Yours faithfully,



Ms J E Vincent

Headteacher