

12:45, Friday 18th December 2020

Dear parents, carers (and students)

Coronavirus testing for secondary schools and the arrangements for week commencing Monday 4th January 2021

I am sure you have been following the media over the last 24 hours with reference to the above. I thought it important to write to you before we break up for the Christmas holiday to give you an outline of our operational plan for the week beginning Monday 4th January 2021. This will allow families to plan arrangements for this week.

It is likely that we will also communicate with families via the school website, email and Facebook over the Christmas break with further details if necessary. We will endeavour to keep this communication to a minimum.

Coronavirus testing in schools

This initiative has only very recently been announced to schools by the Government. In fact the national on-line introduction to the scheme for school leaders is scheduled for this afternoon. We intend to provide families with details of the arrangements for any testing to be carried out, with your consent, in due course. The information from the Government is evolving by the hour and I am unable to share any further details at this time. Early communications from North Yorkshire County Council indicate that planning for Coronavirus testing will commence in early January 2021 and may not impact on the school during the week beginning Monday 4th January 2021.

Arrangements for the week beginning Monday 4th January 2021

All schools are working in different contexts and government guidance published yesterday is intended to guide school leaders' decisions about how best to meet the new expectations.

For Tadcaster Grammar School, we have committed to the following operational plan which allows us to sustainably staff the school and to provide the optimum education and care for all our students on and off site. All provision in school has to be in accordance with our Coronavirus-safe way of working. Concurrently, we will be planning to meet the expectations for Coronavirus testing in schools.

Monday 4th January 2021

The Department for Education has given schools discretion to use an *additional* staff training day in order to plan for the above.

As such, the **school will be closed for a staff training day on Monday 4th January 2021.**

I understand this is exceptionally short notice. My apologies if this presents any challenges at home, although the Government seems to have realised that schools will indeed need additional time to enact their expectations for Coronavirus testing in schools.

During the additional staff training day on Monday 4th January 2021, years 10, 11, 12 & 13 students are encouraged to access school-based on-line revision resources, including our *One Stop Shop* for years 10 & 11 [HERE](#)

No dedicated on-line work will be set for years 7-9, although students may wish to use the time to revise key topic areas using their existing Google classroom resources in preparation for their remote education starting on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Years 7, 8, 9 & 10

During the week beginning Tuesday 5th January 2021 - Friday 8th January 2021 students will access on-line learning at home

Students should continue to follow their normal daily timetable whilst at home.

Subject teachers will upload the work they are setting to their Google Classrooms.** There will not be a one size fits all model of "live" teaching. Teachers will use the normal teaching contact time to ensure that learning is as effective as possible. A variety of approaches will be used which may include:

- A teacher-led introduction to the tasks to be completed, the resources which will help and the time limit for completion.
- "Live" explanation using Google Meet or pre-recorded lesson commentary.
- The teacher is available for students to ask questions during the timetabled lesson.
- Students asked to post work on the Google Classroom to check progress and understanding.
- The teacher provides additional resources to assess learning as the lesson progresses.
- Feedback from the teacher either to individual students or as whole class feedback.

We will also be offering additional provision in school only for all vulnerable children in years 7, 8, 9 & 10 and a small number of children of critical workers.

> Arrangements for vulnerable children in years 7, 8, 9 & 10

We will be in touch with the parents/carers of vulnerable children in these year groups to discuss provision in school during Tuesday 5th January 2021 - Friday 8th January 2021.

> Arrangements for the children of critical workers in 7, 8, 9 & 10

Despite the extremely short notice in relation to the staggered start, please may I impress upon parents that this provision is only available to those families who meet the Government criteria and have no other childcare solution for children who are not able to look after themselves safely at home. It is important that numbers are kept as low as possible in order for the school to effectively remain Coronavirus-safe and to prepare for lateral flow testing of Coronavirus for all staff and students.

If you feel that you will absolutely not be able to ensure your child is safe to learn at home during Tuesday 5th January 2021 - Friday 8th January 2021, please **complete this form by midday Friday 1st January 2021**. Entries made after this time may not be considered. Link [HERE](#).

It is likely you will be contacted by the school to verify your eligibility. See the government definition of 'critical worker' [HERE](#)

Please also note that the provision your child will receive in school may be different to that others will receive remotely at home and may not involve their normal subject teachers.

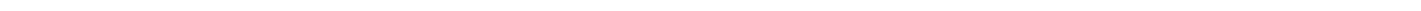


Years 11, 12 & 13

All students in these year groups will attend school as normal during the week beginning Tuesday 5th January - Friday 8th January 2021 and follow their normal timetable.

School timings, uniform expectations and catering arrangements will be as normal. School buses will run as normal.

Sixth form consortium arrangements with Sherburn High School should continue as normal.



**** ALL PARENTS - ACCEPTABLE USE AGREEMENT ****

In order for your child to be able to access an enhanced on-line remote curriculum an Acceptable Use Agreement needs to be completed by parents and their children.

The AUA also needs to be completed in order for parents to access Parents' Evenings.

Link to Acceptable Use Agreement: [HERE](#)

Also available on school website: [HERE](#)

School will revert to normal operation with all year groups in school on Monday 11th January 2021. Students will not need to have had an in-school coronavirus test in order to return to school on Monday 11th January 2021.

Thank you for your forbearance. We will be in touch again over the Christmas break if it is necessary.

From all at your school, best wishes for the holiday period.

Regards,

Andrew Parkinson
Headteacher