



Our Ref: JT/RPI

30th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Staggered Return to School - DfE Contingency Plans – Spring Term 2021

Arrangements for week beginning 04/01/2021

This afternoon Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, has highlighted the need for **all** secondary schools to have a phased return to full-time education from the beginning of the new term in January. The Government guidance is that secondary schools in England should **not** fully re-open to all students in the first 2 weeks of term (commencing Monday 04/01/2021).

Staggered Return Arrangements from Monday 4th January 2021

- ① School will be open from **Monday 04/01/2021** for the following students only:
 - Vulnerable children in **all year groups**
 - Children of **critical key workers, NHS and emergency services** in all year groups
 - **Year 11 will be taught remotely via Google Classroom.**
 - Years 7-10 home learning will be available via online portals 'MathsWatch' and 'Show My Homework' from Tuesday 05/01/21.
- ① School will be open from **Monday 11/01/2021** for the following students only:
 - Vulnerable children in **all year groups**
 - Children of **critical key workers, NHS and emergency services** in all year groups
 - **All Y11 students will attend the academy for face-to-face teaching.**
 - **Years 7-10 will be taught remotely via Google Classroom.**
- ① School will be open from **Monday 18/01/2021** for:
 - **All pupils in all year groups**

A full list of those eligible for face-to-face teaching during the first week of term can be accessed from the GOV.UK website here <https://bit.ly/3nXKPHs>

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Accessing the Face-To-Face Provision During the Staggered Return

If you believe you are eligible for onsite provision during the 2 weeks of term and believe your child should be in attendance from **04/01/2021**, it is important to notify the academy in advance by emailing us on **office@beaconacademy.co.uk**. This email should include:

- 📧 your child's name
- 📧 year group
- 📧 details as to why you are sending them for onsite provision i.e. the category of need that your child falls into or the critical key worker job role you hold.

We kindly ask that this email is sent by the end of the day on **Sunday 03/01/2021** to **office@beaconacademy.co.uk**.

The initial staggered return, as announced on 30/12/2020, is now in 2 phases. It is expected that all Year 11 will return as normal to face-to-face lessons on **Monday 11/01/2021**. All other year groups will return to school on **Monday 18/01/2021**. This means that at the start of the new term, most children will learn online until their return on Monday 18/01/2021.

Remote Learning

All students in year groups 7, 8, 9 and 10 who do not meet the criteria for face-to-face provision will use the Academy's remote learning via Google Classroom, Show My Homework and EdClass for the 2 weeks of term. Students will be expected to engage with this provision fully and in line with their school timetable to enable staff in school to offer virtual teacher-led sessions. Further information will be provided on **Monday 04/01/2021**.

If students do not have access to a device to link to the Internet please contact the Academy as a matter of urgency via email at **office@beaconacademy.co.uk**. Please title your email 'Internet Access' so that we can deal with your request as soon as possible.

Free School Meals

Children engaging in remote education at home during the 2 weeks of the new term, who are eligible for free school meals, will be provided with either a food parcel or voucher which can be collected from the school. Further details about collection slots will be shared from **Tuesday 05/01/2021**. Aldi vouchers for the holiday period were sent home in the last week of term.

We appreciate that these changes to the Government guidance can come at short notice but we are trying very hard to follow all guidance on COVID-19 whilst minimising disruption to the students access to a face-to-face provision in school. We are also committed to safeguarding our students, staff and wider school community so, as such, may have to take difficult decisions when directed to do so.

We are currently awaiting further guidance on the Government's plans for voluntary testing in schools. We hope that this instruction and guidance will come with enough time to plan with minimal disruption to staff, students and parents and maintain as much in person teaching and learning as possible. We will update you as soon as we can as more information is provided by the Government.

Until further communication is shared, please be assured that we are working hard to give you the information you need at the right time, that our priority is keeping everyone in our community safe and well and that the children's education will always be the impetus that drives our decision-making. I would like to thank all members of our school community for their support throughout these challenging times and wish you and your families a happy and safe start to 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Thurley