



31 December 2020

Dear Students, Parents and Carers,

I had hoped that we would not have to contact you all over the holidays but as we have learnt with this pandemic, things change quickly.

As you will have heard, the Government has announced that the Spring term will start with remote learning for secondary age groups until 11th January at the earliest (when 'exam year' groups return). Therefore, we need to revert to the delivery model deployed during the last week of term before the Christmas holidays.

Therefore, from Monday 4 January to facilitate remote learning for all students, teachers will follow the same approach used in the last week of term - principally:

- All students in a class attend each lesson online (ignoring the XYZ 2/3<sup>rds</sup> cohort timetable)
- Where teachers and tutors have clashes with domestic commitments, they will aim to deliver as much as possible and will communicate with their students specific arrangements/adjustments to the above

All vulnerable learners will be encouraged to continue remote learning, having been given priority access to IT to facilitate this in the week before Christmas. We will contact all students in these priority groups on Monday 4 January to confirm individual arrangements and advise them of support available onsite, should it be needed.

I appreciate that this means yet more disruption and there are many questions that remain unanswered, including the practicalities of setting up a testing site at college (which is now mandatory) and the impact of lost face to face learning on exams - we will work through these in due course.

However, we do know that **BTEC exams will be going ahead as planned** (at least for now) and the DfE has said there is no expectation that these students should be tested prior to the examinations.

At the moment we are tentatively planning to return to our 2/3rds model for both year groups (for reasons set out at the end of term) from 11 January but this may be dependent on the R rate locally and any progress we make with mass testing. We will keep you updated once we have had a chance to meet, plan and discuss the implications of a return to on site learning.

With best wishes for the New Year, despite the disruption that the Spring term is already providing.

William Baldwin  
Principal