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Dear Parents and Carers

You will be aware that yesterday the Department for Education announced amended plans for a staggered start to the new term. We are writing to you to summarise what we know at this stage and what this means for pupils and students in our schools.

January re-opening

Arrangements in our schools for the first week back are as follows:

- All of our schools will be closed to all year groups on Monday 4 January for the planned training day (as published in our school calendars).
- Primary schools in our area have been asked to open as usual for all year groups from Reception to Year 6; this has not changed, and we look forward to welcoming these pupils back on Tuesday 5 January.
- All secondary students (Years 7 – 13) should remain at home for the first week back (Tuesday 5 January to Friday 8 January), unless they are the children of critical workers or are considered “vulnerable”.
- All students in Years 7 – 13 who are at home will have access to a full timetable of remote learning, with live remote teaching from their teacher.
- Children of critical workers and students who are considered “vulnerable” are able to come to school. These will be supervised in computer rooms, accessing the same live remote lessons as students working from home.

As things stand, we are expecting that Years 11 and 13 will be able to return to face-to-face teaching in school from Monday 11 January, whilst Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will continue to access their learning remotely. However, we will write again to confirm this, based on any updated guidance.

We have also been informed that any students sitting external public exams in January will still be able to do so; we will contact the small number of students this involves individually on Monday 4 January.

Accessing remote learning

This means that, from Tuesday 5 January until Friday 8 January, all students (except children of critical workers and students who are considered “vulnerable”) should access their learning by following their normal timetable via Microsoft Teams. This will be a ‘live lesson’ streamed through Microsoft Teams. If a teacher is absent, lesson resources will be made available on Microsoft Teams. Attached are guides to accessing live lessons and accessing resources on Microsoft Teams, along with a video link below if you prefer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UKti5cE322g>



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If you have any problems with accessing Microsoft Teams, please contact your child's Head of Year.

What if I am a critical worker or the parent or carer of a student who is considered "vulnerable"?

If you are a critical worker or the parent or carer of a student who is considered "vulnerable" AND you would like your child to access their remote lessons in a school computer room rather than at home, please can you email the school at office@driffieldschool.org.uk with their full name and the days they will be in school.

Free School Meals

Students who are eligible for free school meals who are working at home will receive a £15 supermarket voucher. This will be provided and organised by your school.

Coronavirus testing in schools

When we wrote at the end of last term, the government had just announced that testing for students and staff will be made available in secondary schools. The Department for Education is rolling out online training from Monday 4 January and we will write when we have more details about the implications of this for your child. However, it is important to reiterate that a student can only be tested with the explicit consent of a parent/carers. Parents/carers retain the right to withhold consent.

Wishing you a Happy New Year

Yours faithfully,

Jonny Uttley
CEO

Scott Ratheram
Executive Principal



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