

31st December 2020

Dear Parent, Carer

Return to school – Spring term 2021

You would have heard the government announcement on 30th December 2020 about their plans for the return of schools in January 2021. We will follow the DfE guidance that is being set out in the wake of these announcements.

Currently the guidance states that schools should extend a phased return to face-to-face education for secondary-age pupils. The major changes are that:

- schools should take time in the week commencing 4 January to prepare to deliver testing of staff and pupils
- in the week commencing 4 January, secondary schools should only provide on-site education to vulnerable children and children of critical workers, and prioritise remote education to those in exam years
- in the week commencing 11 January, secondary schools should provide on-site education to vulnerable children, children of critical workers and those in exam years, and provide remote education to all other pupils
- from 18 January, all pupils should return to on-site education
- additionally, all secondary schools that are in the listed contingency areas will receive an update before 18th January 2021 regarding a possible further extension to remote learning

All schools in Wandsworth are in the current listed contingency area and we will await further guidance towards the end of the first fortnight.

As mentioned in my letter at the end of the autumn term, given that arrangements for the Spring term now need to change we will revert to using Monday 4th January and Tuesday 5th January 2021 as INSET days. We will not be able to have any students on site on these days. Our aim is to have remote education ready **for all students from Wednesday 6th January** (the DfE expectation is to provide remote education only for exam years). Staff will be adapting their lessons so that virtual school can commence for all and we will plan the new mass testing programme to be rolled out in early January.

Start of term arrangements

Monday 4 th January & Tuesday 5 th January 2021	INSET days – No students on site. Staff prepare for remote teaching and mass testing (provisional plans subject to receipt of test kits, training and resources)
Wednesday 6 th January to Friday 8 th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• On-site provision for vulnerable students and children of critical workers only (details will be shared with parents/carers on 4th/5th January)• External examinations for some Year 12 and International Group students (details to be shared with parents/carers on 4th/5th January)• Remote learning for all students across Years 7 to 13 (comprehensive guidance will be communicated on 5th January)



**Southfields
Academy**

**Principal:
Ms Jacqueline Valin**

**Headteacher:
Ms Wanda Golinska**

333 Merton Road
London SW18 5JU

Tel: 020 8875 2600
Fax: 020 8874 9949

Monday 11 th January to Friday 15 th January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site provision for vulnerable students and children of critical workers • On-site provision for exam Years 13 & 11 initially. Depending on testing capacity, Year 12 may also return throughout this week (details will be shared by Friday 8th January) • External examinations for some Year 10, 11, 12 & 13 students (details to be shared with parents/carers by Friday 8th January) • Remote learning for all students across Years 7 to 10, IG and possibly Year 12 (this should be a continuation of activity set up the week before)
Monday 18 th January to Friday 22 nd January 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site provision for vulnerable students and children of critical workers • On-site provision for Years 11, 12 & 13. • Years 7-10 & IG will either be in receipt of remote teaching or return to on-site provision dependent on government review of provision in contingency areas

Please bear in mind that all arrangements are subject to change with short notice. We have yet to receive testing resources and training. Our intention is to secure testing arrangements and remote teaching as soon as possible.

Vulnerable students and children of critical workers

Heads of Year have collated this information and communications with parents/carers will commence on Monday 4th January. Some of the definitions regarding critical workers have changed since the March lockdown and parents/carers may want to check if they meet the current criteria. The latest critical care worker guidance can be viewed [here](#).

Year 13 mock examinations

These had been planned to commence the week of 4th January. **The exams are postponed** and we aim to commence them on **Monday 11th January** according to the same timetable that was published at the end of term. Further guidance will be communicated by the Head of Year next week.

I hope you have had a safe and peaceful Christmas and that we continue to work together to secure the best provision for your children under these challenging circumstances in the New Year. Please be prepared for further communications from 4th January 2021.

Wishing you a more prosperous New Year.



Wanda Golinska
Headteacher, Southfields Academy