

5th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Arrangements and requirements for Academy provisions January 2021

There will be many new items of information due to the new national lockdown restrictions announced last night by the Prime Minister.

Although our plans and arrangements have changed we will keep you updated as provision develops and information becomes available.

From Wednesday 6th January 2021 the academy will only be open for a reduced provision to vulnerable children and children of critical workers. All other students across all Year groups will commence virtual school at home by accessing our on-line learning. Please go to the appropriate links in the table below to access the detail about each provision.

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**Southfields
Academy**

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Remote teaching and home learning	
Arrangements from Wednesday 6th January 2021	Download Remote Learning Plan for all years
Covid Testing:	
Information Letter	Download NHS LFD Testing letter
Testing leaflet	Download NHS "How to.." leaflet
Consent form	Access the student test consent form
On-site provision for vulnerable students and children of critical workers:	
Provision letter	Download the letter about on-site provision
Critical worker registration form	Access the critical worker registration form
IT equipment needs	
IT equipment needs at home	Access the IT equipment needs form

Summer examinations

It was announced last night by the Prime Minister that GCSE and A level exams will not take place this summer in the normal way. We will, in due course, be receiving further details about what will replace these examinations, but it seems reasonable to expect students to receive grades based on a similar system to 2020. This involved teachers assessing student performance using **class and homework, coursework, mock exam results and other evidence**.

In light of this information please convey this message to your children if they were due to finish their courses at the end of this year:

1. **Your hard work will still be recognised.** None of the effort you have shown so far, and will continue to show in the coming months, will be wasted. On the contrary, the new system will make sure this is fully reflected in your final grade.
2. **Your eventual results will be indistinguishable from real exams.** In the long run it will not matter that your grades came via this system. You will still be able to progress to the Sixth Form and University in the normal way. The value of your GCSE and A level qualifications is not being altered, only the way they are being administered. None of your ambitions for the future will be affected by this decision.
3. **The new system will be fair and balanced.** Grades will be awarded based on objective evidence. Any grades that your teachers assign will be moderated carefully, to ensure they are consistent within and between schools.

Students in Year 11, 12 and 13 must take these points on board. Once you have recovered from the initial shock and disappointment it will be more important than ever to get on board with remote learning as your level of engagement will directly influence the grade you will be assigned in the summer. **From now on, every piece of work you do can make a difference to your final grade.**

External Examinations in January/February 2021

The OCR examinations in IT and i-media due to take place next week are yet to be decided. Students must continue with their preparations. As soon as any information is available the Head of Department will communicate with the students registered on these courses directly.

Any BTEC and other vocational examinations scheduled for January/February 2021 for Year 10, Year 11, Year 12, or, Year 13 students are not being taken as planned. Each of these exams have alternative sittings later in the year and our students will have an opportunity to take these examinations then.

We will remain in contact with parents regularly. Please use the contacts listed in the various communications in the table above to access support with any of the activities.

We won't get it completely right from the start but we should work together to try and make the best of the resources we have prepared. Please do not hesitate to contact your Head of Year for any further queries.

Stay safe and keep well.

Many thanks

Wanda Golinska

Headteacher