



1st January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, may I wish you all a very happy new year and I do hope that you have enjoyed a restful break so far and that you have been able to find ways to celebrate safely. Though it is highly unusual for me to write to you during a holiday period, I am aware that there have been many reports in the media, and I wanted to provide reassurance to you by keeping you updated on the actions we have taken.

I attended a virtual meeting with other leaders across the Trust on Monday 28th December, to discuss all the information available to us and to plan a timeline of action. We have reviewed [key updates](#) published since the end of term, these have provided us with more information about potential funding and confirmed that we will receive the first delivery of tests on the 4th January from 8am.

On Wednesday 30th December, the Secretary of State for Education announced that the Government will further delay the return of secondary school age pupils. The changed plans in place allow more time to fully roll out testing for pupils and staff; this change is in reaction to the need to break transmission of the virus in the community given the high infection rates because of the new variant of the virus. The changes mean that the planned return dates are now:

- **Week beginning of 11th January: return of year 11 and 13, these pupils will be prioritised for testing as they return**
- **Week beginning 18th January: all other year groups return**
- **From the 5th January, our provision for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers will be in place. This onsite provision is only open to eligible pupils.**

The Government is keeping these dates under review for some areas where there are very high case rates, we will keep you informed if this affects our school.

We are clear that conducting testing in our school is not compulsory, however we can see that it will potentially reduce the disruption that will be caused by isolating positive contacts and therefore we will work hard to ensure we can take advantage of the testing that has been offered. A leaflet explaining how the test is taken can be found [here](#). Whilst this leaflet should reassure you, I also want to add that **we will not begin testing until we are fully confident that we can conduct this in a safe way.** Mandatory training materials for staff conducting the testing will be accessed, we will ensure that we use the first part of the week beginning the 4th January to train all staff involved in testing. We are currently sourcing trained agency staff who have experience of other testing sites and who will oversee the setup of our facility, we are hopeful that they will join us on the 4th January. Our specialist risk management team will support us in developing and implementing the detailed risk assessment we need to put in place.

We are fully committed to continuing to improve and adapt our online learning offer so that we are sustaining a quality learning experience during any closure periods. We issued details about this

provision when I wrote to you before we closed for the end of term. Thank you for your continued support to make our remote provision beneficial for your child.

What you need to do now

There are some actions we need you to take now:

- If you are a critical worker and you have not informed us that this is the case, and you require your child to attend school from the 5th January you must now do so by emailing us on: office@worcs.tgacademy.org.uk
- If your child does not have access to a device of their own so that they can log onto remote lessons, you must tell us that this is the case immediately by emailing office@worcs.tgacademy.org.uk and we will check whether we can provide you with a device

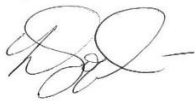
Further update on the 4th January

I will update you again on the 4th January; when I write to you I will:

- confirm that we have received testing kits as has been indicated in the DfE updates
- outline a draft plan for the implementation of testing and provide you with the details of the arrangements we have put in place
- ask you to complete a form to indicate whether you consent to your child being tested

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding, I hope you are able to enjoy some peace and respite for the remainder of the Christmas break.

Yours faithfully,



Mr D Butler
Principal