

30<sup>th</sup> December 2020  
20:00

Dear Families,

**Re: Year 11 school opening from 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and to the rest of the school on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

I hope you managed to have some sort of a Christmas break over the last week and a half!

### **Arrangements for the beginning of Spring Term 2021**

It was announced by Matt Hancock (Health Secretary) this afternoon that many areas in England will be under new tiers from 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020, 00:01. The vast majority of staff and students at Burton Borough School come from the following areas and will be affected:

- Telford and Wrekin: Tier 3 (Very High Alert)
- Shropshire: Tier 3 (Very High Alert)
- Staffordshire: Tier 4 (Stay at Home)
- Wolverhampton: Tier 4 (Stay at Home)
- Cheshire: Tier 4 (Stay at Home)

We have some staff who travel from Wales:

- Wales: Alert Level 4 (Stay at Home)

In addition, the much anticipated announcement from Gavin Williamson (Education Secretary) on whether schools will be open from the w/b 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 informed us of the following:

- School will **only be open for vulnerable and key worker students** from the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021. (This will be **from the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021** for Burton Borough School as we have a staff training day on the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021, as scheduled in advance in the school calendar)
- **Year 11 students will be able to return on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021**
- **Years 7 to 10 students will be able to return on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

**We are waiting for clarification on whether remote learning is for all students or just year 11 students from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2020. From what the Prime Minister and Education Secretary said, it was only for year 11. However, I have since received an email from the Department of Education that says it may be for years 7 to 10 too.** I will inform you as soon as I receive clarity on this.

### **Key worker and vulnerable students**

If you are a key worker or your child is classed as 'vulnerable', they may attend Burton Borough School from the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. For now, I am going to assume that learning will be carried out remotely for all years. **All learning will be carried out via Teams so where possible, please ensure your child brings their device to school and a pair of headphones.** There will be limited devices available at school.

The reasoning behind this decision is that student, parent/carer and teacher voice work that we carried out last term indicated that the best type of learning is face to face. However, where this is not possible, the next best alternative is where everybody is working remotely via Teams as the teacher is able to focus on all the students online. The least effective way of learning was when teachers had



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to multi-task, with a class in front of them and also try and deliver what they could online. We want to ensure that all students receive the best possible education during this time so we thank you in advance for your understanding.

There will be **no canteen services during the first week** so any students who attend will need to bring their own packed lunch. We will review this next week and let year 11 families know if we will have canteen services the following week when year 11s are in. Students who receive free school meals will be provided with food if they are in school and those who are staying at home will have the food delivered. We will send families eligible for free school meals separately.

If you are a key worker or have a child who is vulnerable and would like to send your child to school from the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, please complete the survey following this link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YHRLNHZ>

### **Mass Testing at Secondary Schools**

We are still waiting for further guidance and training on how this will work. We currently have a small team of support staff who have indicated that they will be willing to administer/monitor the lateral flow tests and we will provide more information on this when it is available to us.

As it is only Wednesday, there is still plenty of opportunity for more announcements before next week. We will endeavour to keep you as up to date as possible!

With all good wishes and stay safe,



Krissi Carter  
Principal



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