



Sunday, 03 January 2021

Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all well and may I wish you all a very happy new year. As you will be aware from the media the Government has announced its final decisions on how secondary schools in England should stagger the start of term and should have a gradual and safer return to school that allows for the implementation of rapid testing. I write to you today to confirm our plan in line with government guidelines for our reopening, please find below the key dates and details.

Wednesday 6th January

School will remain closed to ALL pupils and we will use this as a staff training day to ensure we are ready for students return and a programme of mass testing in school.

Thursday 7th January & Friday 8th January

- These days will be for staff training and testing
- **School will be closed for the majority of students.** However, School will be **open to vulnerable and key worker children** (please see section on this in the letter below)
- **Y7 – 10** - Students should follow their timetable from home and will be able to access resources uploaded to Microsoft TEAMS. Please note there will be no live remote learning this week for these year groups
- **Y11** – Students should follow their timetable from home and will be able to access live learning for every lesson, attendance will be recorded.
- We do intend to invite **Y11** into school on a rota to complete rapid testing for Covid19 on Friday 8th January, but we will confirm times and arrangements as soon as possible and notify you via text.

Monday 11th January

- **Y11** return to school for face-to-face teaching
- Continued face-to-face provision for **vulnerable and key worker children**,
- Remote live learning begins for **Y7, Y8, Y9 & Y10** - Students in these year groups should access provision remotely through Microsoft TEAMS and they should follow their normal timetables. Attendance will be recorded
- We do intend to invite all Year groups invited into school to roll out rapid testing before they return.
- The vocational examinations scheduled for the week commencing 11th January will go ahead.

Monday 18th January

We are expecting that **all year groups** will be able to return to school as normal.

Vulnerable children / Parents who are critical workers

From Thursday 7th January, we will be opening to a small number of vulnerable students from all year groups; we will contact parents and carers of these students directly with arrangements on Wednesday 6th January.

Critical workers need to be aware that their children will not be taught normal lessons because teaching staff will either be teaching Year 11 or delivering remote lessons. Instead, critical worker students will be supervised by support staff in one of our remaining IT suites whilst they access remote lessons.



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If you fall into the critical worker category and would like your child to attend school from Thursday 7th January, you will need to contact us using the email address covid@hazelwoodhigh.co.uk by 9am on Wednesday 6th January at the latest. In your email, please provide the following information:

- child's name, year group and form.
- the exact days that you will require them to attend school.
- evidence that both parents are critical workers (a definition of critical workers can be found at the end of this letter).

We will aim to let you know whether or not we will be able to accommodate your child by 3pm on 6th January at the latest so that you can make alternative arrangements where necessary. **Please do not send your child into school without confirmation of this arrangement.**

Year 11 iMedia students

The department of education have decided that all January exams will continue to go ahead despite the extended return to school date. We will do everything we can to support our students in sitting this exam on their first day back to school, however it is extremely important they access the remote learning in the week before their return. There will be vital live revision sessions for these pupils. We ask that you encourage your child to access these online lessons. Please email Mr Falshaw with any issues regarding this so he can send any lost learning directly to your child.
p.falshaw@hazelwoodhigh.co.uk

Free School Meals

If you are in receipt of free school meals allowance for your son/daughter, we will make sure that during any period of home learning from the 6th January to the full return of students on the 18th January you will continue to receive vouchers for this allowance, and we will be in touch directly about this via the text messaging service.

ICT Access

We will be in touch with those families who have needed to borrow school laptops to access remote learning before to make sure they have this again. If you feel you need to borrow any ICT equipment from school so that your son/daughter can access remote learning, then please email the appropriate member of staff indicated below.

- Y7 – Mrs Rourke – h.rourke@hazelwoodhigh.co.uk
- Y8 – Mr Kershaw – m.kershaw@hazelwoodhigh.co.uk
- Y9 – Mrs Cairns – e.cairns@hazelwoodhigh.co.uk
- Y10 – Ms Ward – j.ward@hazelwoodhigh.co.uk
- Y11 – Mr Doran – p.doran@hazelwoodhigh.co.uk

Rapid Testing

The government's announcement was that schools will be putting in place, from January, a system to rapidly test both students and staff, which going forward is intended to minimise the number of students that will need to be sent home to isolate.

At this time, I cannot be more specific because schools have not yet been provided with all the details required to plan this. From what we do know, there are many logistical issues to overcome in order to create a safe and reliable testing regime. **We would welcome expressions of interest from any parent or members of the community who feel that**



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they have the capacity and/or the skills required to assist us in the mass testing of students as a volunteer, you can express your interest using the keyworker email address provided above. We would gratefully welcome any offers of support.

As a Headteacher, and as a parent of a secondary aged child myself, I am deeply concerned about the detrimental impact of the crisis on our children's education. I understand the frustrations that you will have undoubtedly felt over the last few months, I have experienced them from both sides; however, I am proud to say that a team of highly committed and dedicated professionals serve the students of Hazel Wood High School. They will continue to provide the best possible education they can during these challenging times.

All I ask is that you bear with us. I would like to thank all of our parents who have been supportive and understanding of the situation. Going forward, I have to take whatever action is required to keep staff, students and the local community safe and to ensure that we do everything we can to contain the spread of the virus.

I wish you all a safe, happy and peaceful end to your holidays and I am looking forward to seeing you in what I hope will be a better year for all of us.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. Greenhalgh".

Mr P. Greenhalgh
Headteacher



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Government definition of Critical workers

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

Health and social care - This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare - This includes childcare, support and teaching staff social workers, specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

Key public services - This includes: those essential to the running of the justice system, religious staff, charities and workers delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government - This only includes: those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's length bodies

Food and other necessary goods - This includes those involved in food: production, processing, distribution sale and delivery as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

Public safety and national security - This includes: police and support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak), fire and rescue service employees (including support staff), National Crime Agency staff, those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

Transport - This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services - This includes: staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure), the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage), information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services), postal services and delivery, payments providers, waste disposal sectors.



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