

4 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: January Return to School update**

I hope you have enjoyed a restful and enjoyable holiday.

You are, no doubt, aware of the latest government announcement concerning the return to school in the new year. The full address given by Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education, to the House of Commons can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-sets-out-school-contingency-plans-for-england>

Last Wednesday the Secretary of State for Education announced that the Government will further delay the return of secondary school age students. This decision allows more time to fully roll out testing for students and staff in order to break transmission of the virus in the community and reduce the increasing infection rates due to the new variant of the virus.

The changes mean that the planned return dates are now:

- Week beginning 11th January 2021: return of year 11 and 13; these students will be prioritised for testing prior to, or as, they return
- Week beginning 18th January 2021: all other year groups return

From the 5th January 2021, provision for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers will be in place and APPLs will be contacting families today. Remote learning will be available through Satchel One for Years 11 and 13 this week and for all other students from Monday 11th January.

From 11th January, all students in years 11 and 13, along with the vulnerable pupils and those of key workers, should attend lessons in school. Pupils in all other year groups will continue to access remote learning at home until they return to school on 18th January.

We are currently putting into place our plans for the testing of all pupils prior to their return to the classroom and we will be contacting you again later in the week to advise you of when your child can come into school to be tested and request your permission.

If you are able to volunteer your services to help with the testing programme in school over the next few weeks we would be very interested in talking to you. Please email Mr Irvine at [mirvine@thewestwoodacademy.co.uk](mailto:mirvine@thewestwoodacademy.co.uk).

We look forward to a successful year ahead with less disruption to the education of our pupils.

Thank you for your on-going support.

Yours faithfully



Ms H T Lawrence  
Head of School

Westwood Academy, Mitchell Avenue, Coventry CV4 8DY

 @academywestwood **t.** 0247 646 7779 **e.** [admin@thewestwoodacademy.co.uk](mailto:admin@thewestwoodacademy.co.uk)  
**w.** [www.thewestwoodacademy.co.uk](http://www.thewestwoodacademy.co.uk)