

3rd January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I trust you and your family are well and have enjoyed the holiday so far.

As you will no doubt be aware, on 30th December the Education Secretary announced additional changes to the reopening of schools next term – further delaying the planned start date for the majority of secondary school students while testing processes are put in place.

As such, the arrangements at Rockwood Academy are as follows:

Students in ALL Years: Learning at Home Via Microsoft Teams (5th – 8th January)

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10: Learning at Home Via Microsoft Teams (11th – 15th January)

Students who are considered 'vulnerable' (children with an EHC Plan, young people who have a social worker) or are the children of critical workers (key workers) should return to school on Tuesday 5th January, in full school uniform.

Students in Year 11 should return to the Academy in uniform on Monday 11th January for an 8:40am start.

Students in Years 7 to 10 should return to the Academy in uniform on Monday 18 January for an 8:40am start.

I appreciate this news may cause you concern, but I would like to reassure you that your child's online education will be as close as possible to any normal day in school: students will register at the same time for form time at 8:45am. They will then follow their usual timetable, with a mix of lessons streamed live or pre-recorded lessons with teachers available for questions throughout. Please note there will be no period 6 - intervention class for years 10 & 11 until further notice.

A copy of the timetable will be sent out to all students.

All attendance will be tracked and monitored, and students are expected to log-in and engage with the learning being offered by our staff who are expertly trained in delivering online learning.

Access to Equipment and Technology

CORE Education Trust is committed to ensuring that every student has access to a laptop or tablet device so that they can continue to receive a high quality of education.

Should you need to borrow a device for this period or require any technical assistance, please contact the Pastoral Manager or Senior Leader for your child's year group.

Year Group	Pastoral Manager	Senior Leader
Year 7	Mr Khan m.khan@rockwood-academy.co.uk	Mr Donaldson h.donladson@rockwood-academy.co.uk
Year 8	Ms Shaheen n.shaheen@rockwood-academy.co.uk	Mrs De Jesus p.dejesus@rockwood-academy.co.uk
Year 9	Ms Sahota b.sahota@rockwood-academy.co.uk	Mr Cooke d.cooke@rockwood-academy.co.uk
Year 10	Mr Ali s.ali@rockwood-academy.co.uk	Mr Howes b.howes@rockwood-academy.co.uk
Year 11	Ms Walker s.walker@rockwood-academy.co.uk	Mrs Williams j.williams@rockwood-academy.co.uk

Testing

As we have done since September, we will do everything we can to help keep staff and students safe, and in the classroom. Following the government guidance, my team and I have already begun to develop plans for testing and will be using the early days of term to fine-tune them. Here's what we know so far about the rapid testing programme recently announced by the government:

- Students who are identified as a close contact of someone who's tested positive will be eligible
- All staff will be eligible
- While testing will be optional, we'll strongly encourage staff and students to take part
- We won't ask your child to participate in testing without their consent (or yours, as appropriate)
- Those students returning to school first will be offered testing first
- If someone tests **negative**, they'll still need to follow our social distancing and hygiene measures.
- If someone tests **positive**, we'll ask them to self-isolate in line with government guidance

I will be able to share more details in the coming days including a consent form and an instructional leaflet.

Students have responded very well to the COVID arrangements we have introduced this year - I am confident they will react maturely to this latest measure.

Our overriding priority is to ensure the safety of all students and staff, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support over the measures we must take to manage the situation. On behalf of the staff at Rockwood, may I also wish you a happy, healthy New Year – with very best wishes for 2021.

Kind regards.



Sofia Darr
Headteacher