



21 December 2020

Dear Parents,

Following the most recent announcement from the Government, all secondary schools in England have been instructed to implement a **staggered return to on-site learning** at the beginning of next term and to make preparations to deliver a Covid testing programme for staff and students. Please see below for information about how this will impact The Suthers School and to support you in planning for the new term:

- Monday, 4 January 2021, will be a **logistical planning day** to prepare for delivery of the Covid testing programme. This means that **school will be closed** to all pupils and there **will not** be any on-site or remote learning provision that day.
- Vulnerable children and children of key workers will be able to return to on-site provision on Tuesday 5 January and will be prioritised for testing as soon as the programme is established. Please note that **if both parents/carers are key workers and have no alternative childcare arrangements** in place, **you must register the need for your child to be in school** via the link on our school website which will be made available by Monday 4 January.
- **Remote education** will be provided for all other students (**Y7, Y8, Y9 and Y10**) from 5 – 8 January, before a full return to school on Monday 11 January 2021. As previously, our remote provision will be delivered via MS Teams. **A reminder of how to access Teams is included with this letter.** A reminder of the consent form required for all pupils is also attached. We will aim to live stream lessons via MS Teams where possible. This will be **as per your child's new timetable which can be accessed online via MCAS.** Pupils have had a rehearsal of how to access a live lesson and an MCAS User Guide for parents will follow on Monday 4 January. During this period of remote learning, we strongly recommend students adhere to the timings of their normal school timetable, including breaks and lunchtimes and that they wear school uniform when taking part in live lessons.
- Where additional **support with access to IT equipment** is required, parents will be able to request the loan and collection of a school Chromebook on Monday 4 January.
- For pupils entitled to Free School Meals, details about how to claim vouchers will follow on Monday 4 January.

With regard to the testing arrangements, we will provide you with the details once we have received specific guidance from the government and prepared our on-site test provision. Thank you for your unrelenting support in what remain unprecedented and rapidly evolving circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Andrew Pettit
Head of School

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