

31 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

RE: RETURNING TO SCHOOL IN JANUARY 2021

Despite the disruption during this Christmas break, I hope you had a chance to rest and relax. I am writing to you today with a further update, as yesterday afternoon we were told by the Department for Education (DfE) that there will be a change in arrangements for the return to school over the next few weeks. We apologise for the late notification of these changes; we are sharing this with you as quickly as we can.

In summary - as before,

- We have an INSET day in place for all our staff on Monday 04 January
- Students who are determined by the DfE as 'vulnerable' are to attend school as originally planned from Tuesday 05 January. Please check the attached information provided (Appendix 1) for further guidance on this.
- Students whose parents are critical workers (or key workers) may attend the academy if their parents would like to avail of this to. For example, for childcare so they can go to work. Please check the attached additional information (Appendix 1) for more guidance on this.

However, there is now a change for the following students,

- Students in an examination year (Year 11) who are not determined by the DfE as 'vulnerable', and whose parents are not key workers who require care for them, will access their usual lessons remotely from Tuesday 05 until Friday 08 January. They are required to return to school in person on Monday 11 January.
- All other students (Year 7 – 10) will now have their usual lessons from Tuesday 05 until Friday 15 January delivered remotely. They are required to return to school in person on Monday 18 January.

The DfE has explained that the purpose of this change is for two reasons:

1. To create a bigger gap of time between young people mixing at Christmas and returning to school, reducing the risk of those who have Covid-19 but no symptoms of sharing the infection.
2. To allow schools more time to set up Covid-19 testing for students. The reason for more testing is that it will mean that it will be possible to identify those with the virus but without symptoms so that they can self-isolate, minimising the spread of the virus and the disruption caused.
- 3.

Covid-19 testing within school

We are currently developing our plans for delivering Covid-19 testing for both students and staff. We will be in touch with you again next week when we know more about our local arrangements, and how we will gather your permission and consent for your child to be tested ahead of them returning to school. We will also explain arrangements for those who do not consent to the testing. We are planning on testing students in an examination year (Year 11) from Monday 11 January, and all other students from Monday 18 January.



To do this we will be working hard next week to ensure everything is in place, and to ask you for your consent ahead of your child returning to school.

What do I do now?

If your child meets the DfE criteria for “vulnerable children” listed in the guidance provided with this letter, and they are well and do not have any Covid-19 symptoms (or are in a self-isolation period due to a confirmed case of Covid-19), please ensure that they attend school from Tuesday 05 January.

If you are a key worker and require care for your child from Tuesday 05 January (See Appendix 1), please email office@oasissilvertown.org stating your child’s name, year group, including evidence of your key worker status.

If your child is not eligible to come to school next week, please check the following sections on Free School Meals and Access to Remote Learning.

Free School Meals

If your child receives free school meals, but they are not eligible to come to school next week (only children of key workers or those deemed ‘vulnerable’ are eligible), then they will be able to collect a food parcel from the academy next week; we will contact you early next week with the arrangements for this.

Access to Remote Learning

If your child is being asked to access remote learning please see the guidance on remote learning below.

If your child has any difficulty in accessing remote learning, please be in touch with us directly.

Online Learning/Remote Learning

Students in Years 7-11 should log into their Show My Homework account where they be able to access their online lessons.

For Year 10 and 11 students, students have two live lessons per week for their core (English, Maths and Science) subjects: Lesson 1 and 3. Students will have one live lesson per week for their non-core subjects: Lesson 1. Students will receive instructions on Show My Homework for how to access these. **On Tuesday 05 January, Year 11 will have an online assembly at 12:00pm, and Year 10 at 1:00pm. Students will receive an invite to these assemblies through Show My Homework.**

We look forward to seeing all eligible students at the Academy from Tuesday 05 January at the usual start time for their year group and all other students online.

We understand that this is a lot of information take on board, we will be in touch again next week with further information on Covid-19 testing and your consent, and we will also be publishing updates on our website in due course. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Johanna Thompson', written in a cursive style.

Johanna Thompson
Principal, Oasis Academy Silvertown

APPENDIX 1: GOVERNMENT GUIDANCE

Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - 03 December 2020

Government guidance on who are critical workers, and which children are deemed vulnerable is provided below, and also on the government's website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
- children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services
- adopted children, those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
- those living in temporary accommodation, those who are young carers
- those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
- others at the provider and local authority's discretion

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

- 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

- 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

- 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 arms-length bodies

Food and other necessary goods, 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, including:

- 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

- 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