

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents / Carers,

**START OF TERM JANUARY 2021**

We hope this letter finds you well and you have been able to have an enjoyable Christmas, despite the circumstances.

You will have seen in the press confirmation that further changes have been made to the start of term and expectations on schools in the light of the rapid increase of COVID-19 cases nationally. We are following the direction of the government – as detailed below.

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January remains a Staff Training Day and students are **not** expected to engage with remote learning on this day.

From 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021, our academies will be open to children who are vulnerable or are children of Key Workers. We have been collating details from families who intend to make use of this facility. Group sizes will be no more than 15 to enhance social distancing and students will be accessing study support and catch-up learning. All other students are welcome to engage in off-site remote learning in order to access this subject based learning (which is available through Teams) should you wish to do so

From 5<sup>th</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021, we will require Year **11 groups to attend live learning lessons as per their timetable**, remaining off site to do so. This will be in line with our Remote Learning Policy. We expect the majority of lessons to be delivered live via Teams. Where teachers also blend learning to provide time on task, or use of resources from elsewhere, staff will remain available for the duration of the lesson to answer queries from students. We will monitor attendance of students to sessions and remind parents that engagement with remote learning is compulsory. Where families have IT access issues, work will be provided on paper and House Leaders will contact families to make arrangements. If your circumstances have changed and your child no longer has access to IT facilities, please email your child's House Leader (please see the relevant email address at the end of this letter) to make them aware of your IT needs and we will do everything possible to provide a solution in a timely manner.

From 11th January 2021, **mandatory Remote Learning for all other year groups will commence** and Mass Testing of staff and Year 11 students will begin to take place. We are still awaiting full guidance from DfE and NHS, but as soon as plans are firmer, we will communicate these to you. We hope as many parents and students as possible will consent to testing, but it is not compulsory. From Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January, we will share with you the testing consent forms, and we would appreciate your support in completing the forms as soon as possible. During the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> January, arrangements for remote learning will need to continue to support students with full access to the timetabled lessons, whilst managing testing and the resumption of face-to-face teaching of Year 11. During this week, a phased return of Year 11 is likely, along with a phased return to site of staff.

From 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021, it is expected that all other year groups will be tested and returned to site but further details on this will follow.

---

STBA is proud to be part of the



Sir Thomas Boughey Academy

Station Road

Halmer End

Staffordshire

ST7 8AP



01782 729400



office@stb.academy



www.stb.academy

The external Creative iMedia vocational examination scheduled for Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January (Year 11 only) will still take place and staff delivering this course will be in contact with their students to provide details of arrangements. Unfortunately, it is now necessary to postpone the Year 11 PPEs, but we will be in touch with a revised examination timetable as soon as possible.

Students who are classed as Clinically Extremely Vulnerable will continue to work from home and parents will be contacted by pastoral staff.

In the longer term, we anticipate being asked to maintain Serial Testing for any student or staff member identified as having been in close contact with a confirmed case. Serial Testing involves testing daily for 7 days (weekends excluded) and allows staff and students to stay in school as long as they test negative. Again, this is not compulsory, and any person identified as a close contact who does not participate in serial testing will be required to self-isolate for 10 days.

These are extremely challenging and swiftly changing times. From today Staffordshire, and the counties around us, are subject to Tier 4 restrictions. We continue to monitor closely government and sector advice in relation to school opening and remote learning and to ensure that we operate as safely as we can. We will continue to update you with relevant information as we have it.

We will also be in contact with parents / carers of students who receive free school meals to make arrangements for access to these meals.

We are extremely grateful for your collective effort and good will in supporting such unprecedented requirements. You have our sincere thanks.

Yours faithfully,



Mr J Henshaw

Mrs J Hingley

Executive Principal

Associate Principal

---

Email Addresses for House Leaders:

Fire: [n.bailey@stb.academy](mailto:n.bailey@stb.academy)

Earth: [l.holloway@stb.academy](mailto:l.holloway@stb.academy)

Water: [t.jones@stb.academy](mailto:t.jones@stb.academy)

Air: [r.stevenson@stb.academy](mailto:r.stevenson@stb.academy)