

18th December 2020

HEAD OF SCHOOL: Mr I Bacon

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am sorry to have to write to you again regarding arrangements for COVID-19 as I promised that the Watling Newsletter would be the last communication of this term!

Many of you will have seen that late yesterday afternoon the DfE announced that secondary schools were advised to operate remote learning programmes for most students during the first week after the holidays. **The effect of this is that Watling Academy students will now physically return to the Academy on Monday 11th January.**

Remote learning will be in place on Tuesday 5th January to Friday 8th January inclusive.

We will make provision on site for students with an Educational Health Care Plan and those students whose parents or carers are 'key-workers' as deemed by the government definition. This provision will be from 8:45am to 3:15pm, there will be no Breakfast or After-school clubs. A Microsoft Forms survey can be accessed from the following link <http://bit.ly/3gXoSFP>

Please only complete this survey if one parent or carer in the household is deemed to be a key worker as defined below:-

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services
- Local and national government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

An updated 'Remote Learning' booklet is attached with this letter. Students will be expected to follow their normal timetable from 8:45am to 3:15pm whilst at home, with a registration session between 8:45am and 9:05am. The first 30 minutes of each lesson will be delivered live by the class teacher and the remainder of the lesson will be set aside for students to complete tasks developing their learning following the teacher input. The teacher will be available for the remainder of the lesson to answer questions that students have via Academy email.

Please contact Mr Cassidy or Mr Bartlam on cassidyj@watling.academy or bartlamk@watling.academy if you have any questions regarding logging on or following the arrangements for remote learning.

Respect / Responsibility / Kindness

During that week, students will follow their current timetable and we will switch to the new timetable on Monday 11th January. We have emailed home a copy of the current timetable so that students and parents know when and what subjects they have during the remote learning week.

I fully understand that this will not come as welcome news and may cause difficulties for some families and I do sympathise fully. The principle of the decision made by the government makes sense in trying to limit the spread of COVID-19 after children have mixed in different groups and bubbles over Christmas and in the long run may reduce the disruption to school in the first half term. In practice though, the decision has been taken very late and has left little time for us as an Academy or you as families to prepare.

We are currently making provision for vouchers to be distributed to those students entitled to Free School Meals during the week of Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th January. Those students who have already made meal bookings will have their SIMS Pay account refunded for those days.

If you have any questions at all or need any support with setting up for remote learning, then please do contact us over the telephone or via email during the INSET day on Monday 4th January.

We will look forward to welcoming all students back to the Academy buildings on Monday 11th January.

Many thanks for your help, support and understanding.

Yours faithfully,



Mr I Bacon
Head of School