

5th January 2021

HEAD OF SCHOOL: Mr I Bacon

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will have heard yesterday that the Government has instigated a new National Lockdown starting from today, Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Watling Academy students were already set up to learn remotely until Friday 15th January, so this announcement will extend that period of learning until the middle of February, most likely until after February half term. We have not been given a precise end date yet but will update you as more information becomes available to us. From our point of view, the sooner it is safe to welcome the children back the better and we look forward to seeing them all again in February.

Remote Learning and Academy day

Live lessons will take place as already explained and the details of these can be found in the Remote Learning Handbook for students and parents. I have attached the handbook again alongside this letter.

Students will follow their school timetable as per the Autumn term and for each double lesson there will be approximately 30 minutes of teacher input in the form of a live meeting with just over an hour of follow up work. Teachers will be available on email to answer questions during the lesson.

Each day will start with registration at 8:45am, then follow the timetable below:-

- 8:45am Registration (Live)
- 9:05am Period 1&2 (Live teacher input)
- 9:35am Follow up tasks from live teacher input – teacher available over email
- 10:45am Break
- 11:15am Period 3&4 (Live teacher input)
- 11:45am Follow up tasks from live teacher input – teacher available over email
- 12:55pm Lunchtime
- 1:45pm Period 5&6 (Live teacher input)
- 2:15 pm Follow up tasks from live teacher input – teacher available over email
- 3:15pm End of Academy day

At the end of most lessons the teacher may ask for work completed by each student to be emailed to them although they will give more instructions on the specifics.

Respect / Responsibility / Kindness

Your child's tutor has already asked you and them about access to Internet and devices for accessing live lessons, but if you have difficulties with accessing the learning, please do let us know by emailing admin@watling.academy

Provision for Children of Critical Workers

For children of critical workers there is provision on site at Watling each day between 8:45am and 3:15pm. There is no breakfast club or after school club provision. We will be asking for proof of critical worker status for at least one parent or carer.

Bookings for critical worker children can be made online using the link below:

<http://bit.ly/WatlingCW>

In future weeks, this link will be active from Monday at 8am until Thursday at 4pm for the following week. **You will not be able to book for the following week after Thursday at 4pm.**

The children of critical workers on site at Watling are all following the timetable of **ONE tutor group** so it will make life slightly easier for them if they are booked in for a whole week at a time, although this is not essential.

Free School Meals

Those children who are entitled to Free School Meals will receive a voucher electronically. Parents and Carers who this applies to will receive a separate email explaining the details. This should arrive today. Please let us know if that is not the case.

Care, Resilience and Routine

We know that learning remotely is more difficult than being in school, that it is difficult to keep motivated and that it puts a lot of pressure on what is often a very busy family household. However, all of our students have learnt skills of engagement and resilience over the last 9 months and they will be able to call on these to help them over the coming weeks. Our teachers and wider team will do everything they possibly can to keep them on track, guide and care for the students. Please help your child by waking them at the normal time, making sure they eat breakfast and log on ready to learn by 8:45am, following a clear daily routine that will make it easier to cope during this lockdown period.

If you are worried about anything at all, no matter how small, then please do email your child's tutor or Mr Gibbs, their Head of Year, and they will try their utmost to help. Whatever you do, if you are finding things hard then do not struggle in silence!!

I will be writing to you throughout this Lockdown to keep you up to date with any changes or developments. In the meantime, take care of yourselves and your families and let us know how you are getting on.

Kind regards,



Mr I Bacon
Head of School