

20 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

The Government has announced that secondary schools should have a phased return of students next term, to help limit the spread of COVID-19 in the immediate after-Christmas period by creating a partial COVID-19 'fire break', and to allow schools some time to get started with planning for voluntary COVID-19 rapid testing at school. At the moment, a lot remains unclear about the voluntary COVID-19 testing that might be done in schools, but we will update you on this when we can; for now, we intend to follow the Government's guidance about how next term should start.

### From Monday 4 January

**Students in Year 11 and Year 13** should return to school as normal from 4 January.

**Students who are the children of 'key workers' and students designated as 'vulnerable'** may also return to school from 4 January. If your child falls into one of these two categories – please check the up to date definitions of key worker and vulnerable which can be found in the information on the form that is linked below - please complete the form at the link below and submit it by 5pm on 31 December 2020; this will enable us to know who else, apart from Year 11 and Year 13 students, to expect in school from 4 January. In the case of the children of key workers, please only send your child to school in the week 4-8 January where it is essential to enable you to work, as the COVID-19 'fire break' will be most effective if the number of students in school is as low as possible. The link to the key workers / vulnerable children form is here:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vDuWFAXs0yVOcrxk6wMlhay\\_x-4GdhBILpwTj-tuhJUOEFaNEVINEU5M1RMNEIBTUfiru45SEs1QS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vDuWFAXs0yVOcrxk6wMlhay_x-4GdhBILpwTj-tuhJUOEFaNEVINEU5M1RMNEIBTUfiru45SEs1QS4u)

**All other students will be working from home from Monday 4 to Friday 8 January** and they should follow their normal school timetable. Year 12s will receive work in the same way that they have during the Autumn term (e.g. email or Teams). For Years 7 to 10 new work and/or instructions will be uploaded onto Doodle each day for the 5 lessons. Some of the lessons will be delivered live by teachers using Microsoft Teams, for all or part of the lesson. Teachers who intend to provide live access to lessons using Microsoft Teams will inform your child on Doodle and send an invitation to their school email address. If your child needs guidance on 'Using Teams for a lesson' or accessing their emails then please see the help videos here:

<https://www.hinchingsbrookeschool.net/page/?title=Remote+Learning+%2D+Support+%26+mp%3B+Information&pid=856>

Please note that for those students working from home, we cannot guarantee live access to all lessons during the week of 4-8 January - some staff will be brand-new to the school on 4

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[January](#), some staff may be absent because they are themselves ill, or have ill dependents, but in these cases work for the timetabled lessons should be on Doodle.

Before engaging with a live lesson on Teams, students should understand and be ready to follow the 'Expectations for Students' listed on Page 2 of the 'Remote Learning Guidelines' document for which the link is provided above. Thank you to parents and carers for your support with this.

### **Digital access from home – message from Ms Nightingale**

We have loaned a large number of laptops over the course of the term to ensure students have digital access from home. If you have more than 3 Hinchbrooke siblings who will be sharing a device during the period of [4-8 January](#) please contact Miss Nightingale ([an@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:an@hinchbk.cambs.sch.uk)). We have very few laptops available, but can arrange for these to be loaned where there is a need.

### **Free school meals provision during the week 4-8 January**

We are currently seeking clarification from the Cambridgeshire Local Authority about whether the Winter Voucher Scheme that is operating over the Christmas holidays will be extended to include the week of 4-8 January. We will update you on this over the holiday.

### **[From Monday 11 January](#)**

We are currently expecting all students to be back in school from this date.

### **Mass testing programme**

We are positive about the potential for the mass testing of students and staff in schools, as a way of reducing the spread of the virus and enabling fewer students and staff to have to self-isolate. At this stage, we are not envisaging having a programme of mass testing up and running as the spring term starts, but we will write to you again with more details as soon as we can, alongside any further updates on school/lessons; this is clearly a very fluid situation and we thank parents and carers for your understanding.

Best wishes

Mark Patterson  
Principal