

1 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you have been able to enjoy some level of festive celebrations with your loved ones at the end of a very challenging year. I am sorry that I am having to write to you on the first day of 2021 with yet more changes to the planned return to school.

As you may have heard, the government have made the decision to stagger the return to school and to introduce testing of children and staff in schools. We will be able to give you more information about arrangements for testing next week.

Two days ago the government provided new guidance about how schools should open in January which necessitates further changes for the start of term.

The main changes are as follows:

1. Schools are instructed not to open to students as planned during week commencing 4 January except for vulnerable children and essential places for critical workers' children
2. During w/c 4 January, schools are instructed to prioritise remote education for Year 11 and provide some remote education for Years 7-10
3. During w/c 11 January, schools should deliver full remote education to Years 7-10
4. Year 11 to return to school w/c 11 January
5. Years 7-10 to return to school w/c 18 January

The arrangements for Millthorpe students are summarised below. As always, our plans are based on the latest government guidance and we will let you know if any further changes become necessary as a result of national policy.

Monday 4 January - no students in school

As recommended by the DfE, school will not be open to any children on Monday 4 January to allow staff time to plan and prepare for the changes.

Tuesday 5 - Friday 8 January - vulnerable and essential critical worker children only in school

From Tuesday 5 January, school will only be open to those students who are classed as vulnerable or who have parents that are critical workers and have no other choice but to send their child to school. Those children in school will be supervised as they complete the same work as those children who are working from home. We would ask that you only send your child to school if you absolutely need to and they are not able to remain at home.

During this week work will be provided for students in all year groups on Google Classroom according to their timetable.

The government have asked schools to prioritise online provision for Year 11 and to provide 'some remote education' to other year groups. We intend to provide work according to the timetable for all students. In Year 11, we will be trialling live lessons in some subjects - your child will be informed via the "Stream" if a future lesson will be live. We have been experiencing some difficulties with our broadband service, so we are taking a phased approach to this type of learning until we are confident about what will work effectively. We then hope to roll this out across all year groups. Any feedback on these lessons will be appreciated.

More details about how the lessons will work, how we will monitor attendance and engagement and provide feedback will be provided on Monday.

Monday 11 - Friday 15 January - Year 11 students and vulnerable/critical worker children in school

Year 11 students should attend school at the normal times from Monday 11 January and attend their normal lessons. We will not be able to provide remote learning for any Year 11 students who do not attend school except for the resources uploaded to Google in case of students isolating.

Students in Years 7-10 will continue to receive work on Google Classroom according to their normal timetable.

Monday 18 January onwards - all students in school

The current intention is that all students will return to school from Monday 18 January.

If your child has an Education and Health Care Plan or the family is supported by other agencies, we will be in contact separately about provision for your child in school.

Children in school will have access to the canteen and any child eligible for Free School Meals will continue to receive them. Children eligible for Free School Meals who are at home will receive vouchers.

Once again, thank you for your support and understanding. We look forward to welcoming our students back to school over the coming weeks.



Ms G Greenhalgh
Head of School