

18 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

The Department for Education have announced updated plans for secondary schools, involving a staggered start to term in January 2021. Secondary schools in York have agreed to abide by the guidance issued on the 17th December by the DFE and take the 4th of January as an additional day for preparation for mass testing. As a result, students will begin learning on the 5th January.

The return dates relating to the different year groups are summarised below:

- Children in Year 11 are expected to attend school and follow their usual timetables from Tuesday 5th January.
- Children in other year groups (Year 7,8,9 and 10) will be provided with remote education from Tuesday 5th January and the intention is that all will return to school until Monday 11th January.
- Children classified as vulnerable, along with children of critical workers are also able to access in school provision. They will engage in online learning in the same way as their peers who remain learning at home.
- If you are a critical worker, and will require your child/ren in years 7-10 to attend school in person between 5th and 8th January, please contact the school by 28 December using the email address below with your child/ren's details and the days for which you will need them to attend: criticalworker@millthorpe.southbank.academy.

Students in years 7, 8, 9 and 10 are expected to follow their normal timetables and work will be provided for them on Google Classrooms at those times. We will send you more details about how this will work on Monday 4th January.

We have also been informed that schools will be given access to additional Covid testing from January 2021. The aim of this is to keep as many pupils and teachers in school, therefore reducing the disruption to learning. The government intention is to enable school staff to be tested weekly, as well as daily testing of both pupils and staff who are close contacts of a positive case, to avoid the need for self-isolation. We are still awaiting further details from the Department for Education and we will provide an update to parents in January.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your support during this challenging time and we will provide additional information to parents in January, when we have received further clarification from the Department for Education.

Yours faithfully



Ms G Greenhalgh
Head of School