

18 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to clarify the Trust's position regarding the recent Department for Education's (DfE) announcements about the following:

- (i) A staggered return to school after the Christmas break for some students
- (ii) The roll-out of mass testing at secondary and post-16 education

I apologise for the timing of the communication, although I know the vast majority of you understand that is a result of when we ourselves are receiving the information (in this case, yesterday evening).

A staggered return to school after the Christmas break for some students

As we already have an INSET Day planned for Monday 4 January 2021, the following arrangements will **start from Tuesday 5 January 2021**.

Primary phase: This remains as it was, with schools open as normal to all students.

Secondary phase: Only the following will attend school:

- Students in Year 11
- Vulnerable students and children of critical workers (as was the case in the initial national lockdown)
- A small number of students in Year 10 (who have an examination in January 2021), who will be contacted directly by their school

All other students (Years 7 to 9 and the vast majority of 10) will **access full-time remote education** i.e. will not attend school.

Note: Individual secondary schools will identify vulnerable students and contact their parents/carers directly.

Post-16: Only the following will attend school:

- Students in Year 13
- Vulnerable students and children of critical workers (as was the case in the initial national lockdown)

All other students (Year 12) will **access full-time remote education** i.e. will not attend college.

Face-to-face education for all students will resume on Monday 11 January 2021.

The roll-out of mass Covid testing at secondary and post-16 education

With regard to the roll out of mass testing at secondary and post-16, the main point to stress is that we are committed to supporting the government's national guidance and will continue to do so. Unfortunately, at present we are still awaiting further information on what this will require, but rest assured that we will communicate this to you by Monday 4 January 2021. **Our aim will be to test as many students as possible in the voluntary testing schedule that will be running that week.**

A separate communication, containing further details, will follow from your child's school/college regarding both of the above developments. It will contain links to two quick forms that I would like to bring your attention to. The first is to identify your son/daughter as a child of a critical worker (if you are a critical worker, they are in Y7-10 and you intend to send them in to school for face-to-face education from 5-8 January 2021). The second is a 'consent notice' i.e. to give permission for your child to be tested for Covid in the schedule referred to above. This form should be completed for any student (all year groups, attending school that week or not) that is volunteering to be tested. Both forms, for planning purposes, will have a relatively tight turnaround, so please act upon them urgently if either is relevant to you.

Finally, may I take the opportunity to offer you and your family an enjoyable and relaxing Christmas, as well as thanking you for your continuing support of your school.

Your sincerely

Michael Gosling
CEO – Trinity Multi-Academy Trust