



Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Arrangements for the start of term

Following the announcements last week, I am writing to outline the arrangements for the start of term as per the DfE guidance and to share information in relation to our school context.

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup>:** Staff INSET Day with a focus on setting up for mass testing, organising provision for children of critical workers who are unable to arrange childcare and those who are most vulnerable; continuing with pre-arranged teacher training on tackling discrimination in the classroom.

**No work will be set for students.**

**Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup>:** 8.30am registration for all year groups (and each subsequent day).

**Remote teaching** for Year 11 & 13 and **work set** on SMHW for Years 7-10 & Year 12.

**Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup>:** Remote teaching for all year groups.

**Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup>:** Year 11 students invited into school for testing\*; remote teaching continues.

**Friday, 8<sup>th</sup>:** Year 13 students invited into school for testing\*; remote teaching continues.

\*we will let you know on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> how we will organise this.

Department for Education

### Return dates for primary and secondary schools and colleges in England

Year group	w/c 4 Jan	w/c 11 Jan	w/c 18 Jan
Exam years (years 11 and 13)	Prioritise remote education	Return to school	Continue at school
Primary (years 1-6)	Return to school with some local exceptions*	Continue at school with some local exceptions*	Continue at school with some local exceptions*
Secondary / college (years 7-10 and 12)	Prioritise remote education	Prioritise remote education	Full return to school with some local exceptions*
Primary / secondary vulnerable and critical worker	Return to school	Continue at school	Continue at school
Special school	Return to school encouraged	Continue at school	Continue at school
Alternative provision	Return to school	Continue at school	Continue at school

\* In some local areas, under the contingency framework students will have remote education except for exam years and vulnerable and critical worker children. Special schools for primary years should continue to allow pupils to attend full time.

**Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>:** Years 11 & 13 in school; remote teaching for other year groups.

Where transport to and from school is possible, lateral flow testing for Years 7-10 & 12.

*Note:* Year 13 will have their planned assessments this week.

**Monday, 18<sup>th</sup>:** All students in school.

These arrangements allow us to follow the DfE guidance as summarised in the graphic to the above.

### **Infection Rates around Waddesdon**

In addition to this national information, I remain concerned about the disproportionately high rates of infection around the school.



The School Covid Map website has charted a significant rise in cases since the middle of December. For this reason, and with some reluctance, I believe it right to ask students and staff to wear face coverings, unless they are exempt, or have specific issues relating to hearing impairments.

Over the holidays a teacher was significantly affected by the virus further highlighting our shared duty to adhere to measures which reduce the risks to staff, students and students' families.

I am extremely grateful to our staff who worked until Christmas Eve to carry out the track and trace process, and also for the support and generosity of spirit from all families who were contacted. It can't have been easy to have received a call so close to Christmas.

I am also very grateful to those people who have contacted the school to offer their help with the testing. I remain humbled by the kindness and support that we continue to receive as a school community.

Wishing you well in 2021 and a sense of a brightening dawn as the vaccination roll-out continues.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Abbott  
Headteacher, Waddesdon CE School