



Kingsmead School



A PARTNER ACADEMY IN JOHN TAYLOR MAT

Head of School: Mrs M Mincher, Bsc, NPQH

RESILIENT



INNOVATIVE



MINDFUL



EMPLOYABLE



18th December 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are aware of how unsettling it will be for all of you to receive news late last night about the staggered return to school for children in January. What we know at the moment is:

- Year 11 and 13 will return as normal on **Tuesday, 5th of January**
- Children of **key workers** in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 can come to school if you **require** them to. If you want to send your child in as part of this group, please call 07395 902119 by 2pm today (Friday, 18th of December) so that we can organise work areas and group sizes. We unfortunately cannot accommodate children turning up on the day because of organisational restrictions. As during the previous lockdown, this group of students will be supported by teaching assistants in computer rooms, or on their own laptops. This is because teachers will be teaching normal lessons to classes either in school or online. The children of key workers will access these lessons in the same way that their peers will.
- Some children who need extra support for a variety of reasons will be invited into school by the SEND department or safeguarding team individually. Contact will be made with these families today and an email will be sent out confirming expected attendance at school
- Those families in receipt of FSM who are not attending school will have another week of vouchers organised by Mrs. Benton and these will be issued on Monday 4th January.
- All other children are being asked to engage in online learning from Tuesday, 5th to Friday, 8th of January. This is not optional, and it is an expectation that all children will engage from 8.30am on Tuesday, 5th of January
- The reason for these partial closures is to reduce the number of students in school and allow staff to be trained in administering Covid tests as a way of reducing infection in the Spring term.

That is as much as we know currently.

I am attending an online presentation from the Government between 1 and 2pm this afternoon. After this I may be able to share more information about what this means for Kingsmead School.

Please rest assured that we will ensure that your children, our students, receive the best online learning experience possible during this enforced closure including some support with wellbeing on Tuesday, 5th January during period 3. I cannot say how sorry I am that they are having an interruption to their learning, but Kingsmead students are **resilient** and we will cope. We will all refuse to allow this to affect the incredible progress that they are making.

If your child does not have access to a desktop computer or laptop at home, they may be able to borrow a school laptop for their remote learning. Please note, Kingsmead only has a limited bank of laptops and these will be loaned out on a 'first come, first served' basis. You can register your interest in loaning a school laptop by emailing: blquery@kingsmeadschool.net. If we receive your email before 3pm today (Friday, 18th December) we will reply with a collection slot for the morning of Monday, 4th January. The collection slots for any emails received after this time will be arranged for the afternoon of Monday, 4th.



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Can I ask students to ensure that with this extra time they read another book? If they send me a half-page review on their extra book, I promise to award them 5XP when we go back to school.

Thank you all again for your ongoing support. I know together that we will get through this.

Best Wishes,

Maria Mincher
Head of School