

RC/JAE

5 January 2021



Dear Parents and Carers

Further changes to the start of term – January 2021 (National Lockdown 3)

Last night, the Prime Minister announced the third and, hopefully, the last National Lockdown. He outlined that the expectation is that schools will be closed for the majority of students until at least February half term. Half term is currently scheduled for the week beginning Monday 15 February 2021. This means that a period of up to six weeks online learning has just begun.

We had initially planned for a period of two weeks and the schedule is already up and running. Due to this extended period of time, a revised timetable will be shared with you before the end of this week. Revised Teams lessons will start to appear on your child's schedule. The pastoral teams and tutors will be making regular calls to families to check on wellbeing. Any issues regarding the content of lessons and checking work should be sent to the subject teacher through a Teams message or e-mail.

For some students, a limited amount of work can be collected from the Reception area in school. This is by arrangement with the subject leader or pastoral assistant. Please arrange a specific time to visit the school so that work can be prepared.

Particular support is being prepared for Year 11 students in light of the Government announcement to cancel most formal GCSE and A Level examinations. Vocational exams will go ahead as planned. It is likely that a 'Teacher Assessment' or 'Centre-Based Assessment Grade' will contribute towards final GCSE grades in each subject. I have asked teaching staff to create evidence files for every child in every subject ready for formal assessment and moderation. All Year 11 students need to continue to work hard on all work set as this will evidence to support the awarding of any grades/comments. They are to contact their subject teachers directly if they have any questions or concerns. All Year 11 students were issued additional revision guides to help support this period of home study.

The school will remain open for a small number of students. These are the children of 'key workers' and those students identified as 'vulnerable'. These students are following the same online programme as students working from home. Should you need any further information about the in-school groups, please contact Mrs Tonks via e-mail on h.tonks@portchester.hants.sch.uk.

This situation is far from ideal and your support and co-operation is greatly appreciated.

Please keep in touch with school. Our partnership will support your child achieving during these challenging times.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Carlyle
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr R Carlyle BEd (Hons)

Portchester Community School | White Hart Lane, Portchester, Fareham, Hampshire PO16 9BD

T: 023 9236 4399 | **F:** 023 9220 1528 | **E:** office@portchester.hants.sch.uk | **www.**[portchester.hants.sch.uk](http://www.portchester.hants.sch.uk)

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