



Padgate Academy

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Principal: Mrs M Barclay Bsc (Hons) NPQH

Our ref: MBA/SLE 1

Thursday, 31 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Changes to the start of the spring term for students in Year 11

As you will have seen in the news, secondary schools and colleges will operate a staggered return. The Government has updated this further in their announcement yesterday. This means that students in year 11 will not return as originally planned on Monday, 4th January 2021. This is to allow schools to set up and deliver a testing programme for staff and students.

In order for us to be able to get year 11 back to face to face teaching as soon as we can they will be prioritised for lateral flow testing. This will take place from Tuesday 5th Jan and students will be invited to attend the Academy at a dedicated time. Further details of how testing will take place for your child will follow alongside the process of gaining consent. In the meantime, you can familiarise yourself with how testing works by visiting <https://padgateacademy.co.uk/coronavirus-testing>.

Students in year 11 will be offered their full timetable via remote learning from Monday 4th January until Friday 8th January (inclusive). All year 11 students will return to the Academy on Monday 11th January at 8:40am.

Students already know how to access their class Teams areas and have the links for the video lessons, but full instructions will be sent out prior to the start of the new term.

I cannot stress enough how important it is that all students access all their lessons as per their normal timetable so that they can continue with their curriculum, building on the skills and knowledge they have acquired over the last 11 years.

Students completed their mock exams before the Christmas break and the virtual Parents' evening scheduled on Thursday 14th January will take place as originally planned. More details will follow.

Attendance

It is vital that students follow their normal timetable and participates fully in all activities set by their class teachers. Teachers will continue to deliver the planned curriculum building on prior skills and knowledge. Students cannot afford to use the next few weeks as an extended holiday. I have asked staff to take registers as normal so that if your child is not accessing their online learning or not engaging fully, we can contact you to offer any support that they need to get them back on track. If your child is unwell and is unable to take part in their lessons please can you report the absence in the normal way by notifying the attendance team.



Accessing work online

For all students who are working online from Monday 4th January, they should follow their normal timetable, including form time, and follow the instructions available by visiting <https://bit.ly/3mtTnUT> or on our website, by selecting Students > Self-Isolation Work from the drop down menu.

SIMS Student App

Students in all years can access SIMS Student. Access is provided using students secure Padgate Academy email account. The app is accessible from mobile, tablet and computer, providing access to timetables, homework, achievements and much more. For more information and to get started, please visit <https://bit.ly/3msCN7P>

COVID-19 information

You can find information relating to our re-opening arrangements, school layout and much more by visiting <https://bit.ly/3aojoTo>. Our whole school COVID-19 risk assessment can be found by visiting <https://bit.ly/3aoih6a>.

You can also access the full re-opening plan for parents and students (updated 27/11/2020) by visiting <https://bit.ly/34kSckf>

Provision for children of 'Critical Workers' or those classed as vulnerable

As we did from March last academic year, the Academy will offer provision for the children of 'Critical Workers' and children identified as vulnerable. If we are aware that your child falls into one of these categories, then you should already have been contacted by the Academy. If you believe that your child falls into one of these categories and you have not yet been contacted, please do contact us. This provision will begin on **Tuesday 5th January** to allow us to offer testing to all students identified as part of this group. All students will need to access their learning remotely on **Monday 4th January**. A member of the pastoral team will contact you on Monday to explain how this will take place and the process for parental consent.

For students attending the Academy, the school day will run as normal, starting at 8:40am and ending at 3:05pm. Each day will start with breakfast which be provided free of charge. Students will continue with their normal timetable and will remain in their designated bubble zones. This means that students still need to enter and exit the building via their usual route.

Students attending school must wear school uniform or academy PE kit if they have PE. Students can attend for the full week or for part of the week depending upon your childcare requirements.

If you have any queries regarding our provision or need support from us in any way, please contact the Academy via email, keyworkers@padgateacademy.co.uk or telephone on 01925 822632.

Best wishes



Mrs M Barclay
Principal

