



# Ark Burlington Danes Academy

04.01.2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope you and your family have enjoyed the break over Christmas despite the restrictions.

Following the Government announcement on schools last week, I am writing to confirm arrangements for the first two weeks of the Spring Term.

As you are probably aware, the rising rates of coronavirus infection have led the Government to delay the return to face-to-face teaching in secondary schools. A staggered return is therefore required, with priority given to the year groups facing public examinations in the summer (Years 11 and 13) alongside vulnerable students and the children of critical workers. Key arrangements for the next two weeks are as follows:

- **Years 7-10** and **Year 12** will have remote teaching online from the start of term on Wednesday 6 January. Students will follow their usual timetable of lessons via Microsoft Teams. It is presently expected that they will be able to return to school for face-to-face teaching on Monday 18 January.
- **Year 11** and **Year 13** will also have remote lessons for the first week of term, starting on Wednesday 6 January. However, it is expected that students in these year groups will be able to return to the school on Monday 11 January.
- We will continue to provide face to face education on site from Wednesday 6 January for vulnerable students and the children of critical workers. Please complete [this form](#) if you require your child to access the key worker provision.
- Some Y11 and Y13 students are due to sit **BTEC exams** next week. These will take place as planned in school and we will be in touch with these students directly to confirm arrangements.

Over the holidays we have been working on plans to begin offering coronavirus testing for students and staff in school, and I will keep you updated on these arrangements as further information becomes available. This testing programme will help us to identify asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases and thus to reduce possible transmission in school, which will be beneficial.

The rising rate of infection is naturally of concern to us, and we will be keeping the safety of our community at the heart of all our planning.

With every good wish to you all for 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Paul Bhatia

Principal

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