

19th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, what an end to the term this has been – one that has presented many challenges but also opportunities in which our school community has shown great resilience and togetherness, putting the needs of our students first. We want to take this opportunity to thank all of our stakeholders for their support throughout this time.

As you are aware from the news updates on Thursday, announcements were made that carry significant implications for the restart of all secondary schools in January. The updates, from the government to schools, include:

- A staggered return to secondary schools in January, with students with impending exams (Year 11,12 and Year,13) returning to school w/c 4th January, whilst other year groups are to have virtual learning for this first week of January
- Secondary schools have been asked to consider testing students on site as of w/c 4th January (with parental consent), requiring separate rooms and staff to administer tests - this will need more clarity and guidance before we notify parents and carers of how this applies to our setting
- All students return to school from Monday 11th January for face-to-face teaching. Students will not need to have had a test in order to return on 11th January
- Children of critical workers and children classified as vulnerable should be allowed to access school, alongside the Year 11,year 13 students, as of the w/c 4th January but in separate bubbles as usual
- Families in receipt of Free School Meals will continue to receive support during this week for children working remotely at home. A separate letter regarding this will be sent when we return.

In order to allow schools to prepare sites and communicate changes to staff, schools have been permitted to take an additional staff Inset day on Monday 4th January. This means our school will be open to Year 11,12 and 13 students, children of critical key workers and children classed as vulnerable on Tuesday 5th January, at the normal start time.

In order for us to accurately prepare and plan for those children of critical workers, if you are a parent/carer who is classified as a critical worker and wish to send you child(ren) in between Tuesday 5th-Friday 8th January, please complete the google link by the 27th December. We will not send out a reminder email so please ensure the form is completed if you need to send your child on site.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLS6xbyj_pffyh1zSZHT5o7UWyBmFabDH-bfKzfNDu57QODgw/viewform?usp=pp_url

Those children of critical workers will form a separate bubble in school whereby their access to google lessons will be supervised during school hours in remaining IT classrooms around the site. Due to not knowing at this point how many students this may be, plus not having individual IT equipment for every student, we will have to mix year groups to ensure they have access to IT provision, so please only send in your child if you have no other alternative.

For students not returning to school until Monday 11th January (Years 7-10) all lessons will be virtual, live lessons will start from Tuesday 5th January. On Monday 4th your child will receive written work to complete on that day, and details of the following days' lessons via google classroom. Your child will receive live lessons as per their usual timetable but due to having key worker students on site they may have a different teacher. A link for the subject with the teacher information will be shared on the google classroom. The school timings of the day remain the same but live lessons will be 45 minutes with a task set for the child to complete independently. This is so that the teacher can set up and be ready for the next live lesson.

If technology access is limited for your child, please do contact your child's Achievement Director who will be able to give you hard copies of the work for the week. If your child has forgotten how to log into google classroom please contact mcrawford@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk. However, this will only be actioned on the 4th January. We will also share to parents on Monday 4th help guides again as I appreciate it has been some time since your child may have needed to access this provision.

Usual transport will run however there will be no late bus or after school club provision including super 6 for the first week back. After school provision will start on Monday 11th January when all students return.

Regarding testing, I am still waiting for further communication regarding this so as soon as I receive it I will share it with you. This may or may not be before the 4th January.. However please be assured that I will not carry out any COVID tests without you being informed and having your permission in advance.

Many thanks for your time in reading, we hope that this has clarified some fairly rushed news, but please be assured we are doing all we can as a staff body to put the health, safety and well-being of our young people first.

As this is the Christmas holiday, we are actively encouraging our staff to enjoy the break given the strains of this term. I am, however, available if there is any urgent information you require. I am abroad but will try my best to respond to any urgent queries you have, but I am in a different time zone currently. I am, however, back in the UK on the 27th December and am also happy to respond to any queries you may have then until we return.
Ebaker@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Wishing you all a safe and Merry Christmas.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E Baker', enclosed within a simple, hand-drawn oval loop.

Emma Baker
Principal