

29th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly I hope you have all had a wonderful Christmas and managed to relax and enjoy the festive break. Sadly we have had little additional information from the Government in terms of how long students will be expected to access learning from home and how the testing will work. However I wanted to write to you to confirm the below again, and as soon as I have any new information I will of course update you further.

The updates, from the government to schools, include the below:

- 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 support 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, although this is suggested and strongly encouraged.
- Children of critical workers and children classified as vulnerable should be allowed to access school, alongside the Year 11, 12 and 13 students, as of the w/c 4th January.
- 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.

Year 11 and key worker students are expected to attend school in usual school uniform, food will be available to purchase at break and lunch time. Just a reminder that we will no longer be selling drinks in plastic bottles, so please ensure your child brings in the water bottle we provided them with last term so that they can use the new hands-free water stations around the site. Please ensure your child brings in a face covering each day and has a spare; they should not need reminding of this now and must wear it as they are walking around the site.

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 urgently if you intend to send your child in. You do not need to do this if you are keeping your child at home.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSsexBYj_pffyhf1zSZHT5o7UWyBmFabDH-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. If your child has headphones, if they can bring these in with them to access the remote learning this would be beneficial.

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 at the end. 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 mrcrawford@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk. However, this will only be actioned on the 4th January. We will also share help guides to parents again on Monday 4th, 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. However please be assured that I will not carry out any COVID tests without you being informed and having your permission in advance.

I will continue to work hard to ensure that our community continues to keep safe and that we follow the latest guidance. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me on my email below.

Ebaker@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Kind regards.

Yours faithfully,

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

Emma Baker
Principal