

Tudor Grange Samworth Academy

A Church of England School



1st January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I do hope that you have enjoyed a restful break so far and that you have been able to find ways to celebrate safely. Though it is highly unusual for me to write to you during a holiday period, I am aware that there have been many reports in the media, and I wanted to provide reassurance to you by keeping you updated.

On Wednesday 30th December, the Secretary of State for Education announced that the Government will further delay the return of secondary school age pupils.

Primary schools in our area are **not affected** and will therefore **return to school as planned on Tuesday 5th January.**

The Government is keeping its decisions under review for some areas where there are very high case rates. We will remain very vigilant and if we see an increase in infections in our local area or within our school, we will be open with you about this and we will inform you of the actions we will take in response to this. In the meantime, it is extremely important that all children attend school and we maintain as much normality as we can.

TGSA Secondary school pupils:

The changed plans in place allow more time to fully roll out testing for pupils and staff; this change is in reaction to the need to break transmission of the virus in the community given the high infection rates because of the new variant of the virus. The changes mean that the planned return dates are now:

- **Week beginning of 11th January:** return of year 11 (and year 10 pupils sitting their iMedia exam) these pupils will be prioritised for testing as they return
- **Week beginning 18th January:** all other year groups return

From the 5th January, our provision for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers will be in place and open to all eligible pupils.

The Government is keeping these dates under review for some areas where there are very high case rates, we will keep you informed if this affects our school.

We are clear that conducting testing in our school is not compulsory, however we can see that it will potentially reduce the disruption that will be caused by isolating positive contacts and therefore we will work hard to ensure we can take advantage of the testing that has been offered. A leaflet explaining how the test is taken can be found [here](#). Whilst this leaflet should reassure you, **I also want to add that we will not begin testing until we are fully confident that we can conduct this in a safe way.**

Mandatory training materials for staff conducting the testing will be accessed, we will ensure that we use the first part of the week beginning the 4th January to train all staff involved in testing.

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International
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We are currently sourcing trained agency staff who have experience of other testing sites and who will oversee the setup of our facility, we are hopeful that they will join us on the 4th January. Our specialist risk management team will support us on developing and implementing the detailed risk assessment we need to put in place.

We are fully committed to continuing to improve and adapt our online learning offer so that we are sustaining a quality learning experience during any closure periods. We will re-issue details about this provision on Monday 4th January. Thank you for your continued support to make our remote provision beneficial for your child.

What you need to do now

There are some actions you need to take now:

- If you are a critical worker and you have not informed us that this is the case, and you require your child to attend school from the 5th January you must now do so by emailing us on: office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk The deadline for this is 12 noon on Monday 4th January 2021, after which details of TG Small School will be sent to parents / carers of eligible pupils. Please note that pupils attending TG Small School will be supervised completing the same remote learning as pupils at home (a computer will be provided).
- If your child does not have access to a device of their own so that they can log onto remote lessons, you must tell us that this is the case immediately by emailing office@samworth.tgacademy.org.uk and we will provide you with a device

Further update on the 4th January (INSET DAY FOR WHOLE SCHOOL)

I will update you again on the 4th January; when I write to you I will:

- confirm that we have received testing kits as has been indicated in the DfE updates
- outline a draft plan for the implementation of testing and provide you with the details of the arrangements we have put in place
- ask you to complete a form to indicate whether you consent to your child being tested
- confirm arrangements for online learning for the rest of the week

We are still planning that exams scheduled for Year 11 that commence on Monday 11th January will go ahead, as will the external examinations for Year 11 Health and Social Care and Year 10 iMedia. We will share further details next week and will be ready to make adjustments to these plans if required.

Thank you for your continued patience and understanding, I hope you are able to enjoy some peace and respite for the remainder of the Christmas break and I wish you a happy and health New Year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs S Roach
Executive Principal

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