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Headteacher: Ms. C. Costello

31st December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the government announcements yesterday evening regarding school opening I have to communicate some changes to the letter I sent out on Friday the 18th December regarding the attendance of students.

School reopening

Week commencing 4th January

4th January

Non pupil day, no students on site

5th January to 8th January

School is open for face to face teaching for the children of key workers* and those identified as vulnerable only. These students will be taught in their usual bubbles.

All other students in all year groups will receive remote learning from their teachers. More details regarding this will be sent out on Monday the 4th January.

Please see later for information regarding students with exams.

**If relevant and you have not yet done so please respond to our request for updated key worker information that was sent to all parents on Friday 18th December.*

Week commencing 11th January

Students in years 11 and year 13 will join the children of key workers and vulnerable children in receiving face to face teaching on school site.

All other year students will continue to receive remote learning.



Week commencing 18th January

As it stands today the plan, and our hope, is for all students to return to normal face to face teaching from Monday the 18th January. However, Southend-on-Sea has been identified by the government as one of the areas that due to their high level of COVID transmission has special contingency plans in operation. This has delayed the full opening of primary schools and potentially could cause changes to the plans for all Secondary School students to return to face to face teaching on the 18th January.

You can read these plans in full for yourself at [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) contingency framework for education and childcare settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-contingency-framework-for-education-and-childcare-settings)

Public Examinations

The Secretary of State for Education yesterday said that the arrangements described above will not impact the external examinations that are calendared for January. If your child is one of the students with an external examination they should still attend and sit it as normal. These exams are set and calendared by the exam boards and it is therefore not in the remit of schools to make individual arrangements and changes to these plans.

I assure you that all COVID safety precautions will be in place for the students sitting these papers.

Mass Testing

You will note that I have not provided any information in regard to the roll out of mass testing at Shoeburyness High School. Truth be told I am not yet in a position to provide you with the details on how this programme will operate. The scale of the operation is significant; testing all of my staff every week alone will mean 240 tests being carried out and to provide all of year 11 and 13 with two tests in their first week of school will mean another 800 tests.

Doing this without it unduly impacting our core purpose of educating your children will take considerable planning in the first week back at school. However, we will do just that and when we have a clear and detailed plan we will communicate it to you so that you can decide as parents whether you wish to consent to your child being tested.

I will be in touch again on Monday the 4th January to confirm some of the finer detail around remote learning and some practicalities for that first week.

I am also the parent of a secondary age child and I do understand how disruptive all of this is to you as families. If you have any worries or queries in the next few days please contact the school office using schooloffice@shoeburyness.southend.sch.uk and we will do our best to provide support.

Kind Regards

Clare Costello