

17 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: DfE's announcement regarding 'staggered return' in January 2021

I thought that I had written my last letter of 2020, only to receive an important update from the Department for Education (DfE) this afternoon that will affect Year 10 and Year 12.

Years 11 and 13:

Students in these year groups will return to BOA on **Tuesday 5th January 2021**, as planned. We will continue to use our usual venues (Year 13 Dance at The REP and so on), although students in Year 13 who have received exam timetables must take note of the dates of their BTEC externally-assessed units, which will take place at BOA.

Years 10 and 12:

Students in these year groups will return to BOA for face-to-face teaching on **Monday 11th January 2021**. From Tuesday 5th January, lessons will be delivered remotely, via Microsoft Teams. We will ensure that this comprises a combination of online lessons with teachers and independent study tasks. As we only received this directive this afternoon, we will plan for this over the Christmas break and communicate plans to you on Monday 4th January 2021. If there are any issues over access to laptops or desktop computers, please let me know asap.

Please note: BTEC externally-assessed units (and any other externally-set examinations) scheduled for Year 12 students during w/c 4th January 2021 will proceed as planned.

'Mass testing' at secondary schools from January 2021 onwards:

The DfE and NHS have made an announcement that rapid COVID-19 testing will commence on site at secondary schools from January 2021 onwards. At the moment, this will target members of staff for daily or weekly testing, and any student that has been in contact with a confirmed case who wishes to remain on site for face-to-face teaching. It is too early for me to pass on exact details as information and training sessions begin from 1pm tomorrow. For now, it is important to note that consent has to be gained from staff members, students (and/or their guardians). I will write to you all with details ahead of our return in January 2021.

Again, I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and I will be in touch in the new year!

Yours truly,



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