



STEWARDS ACADEMY

SCIENCE SPECIALIST

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Headteacher: Mrs H. Ginger BSc Mathematical Sciences

18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

IMPORTANT UPDATES

Following my numerous letters of the term, I thought that I might be able to give you a rest from our communications, but alas we have had further announcements from the DfE which necessitates writing once again.

Below you will see **NEW arrangements for the start of the new term for each year group and a brief insight into plans for testing of secondary pupils.**

Arrangements for the New Term

Year 7 – 10

- **Tuesday 5th January – Friday 8th January:** Pupils to work from home following their new timetabled day (see below). Teachers will upload work for each lesson and a pre-recorded video or live session will form part of each lesson.
- **Monday 11th January** – return to full time school (see start times below). Period 1 will be spent with tutors, with pupils receiving updated timetables, taking part in a whole school virtual assembly, and continuing with their Ethics and Values curriculum.

Year 11

- **Tuesday 5th January only:** Pupils to work from home following their new timetabled day (see below). Teachers will upload work for each lesson and a pre-recorded video or live session will form part of each lesson.
- **Wednesday 6th January – Friday 8th January:** return to full-time school (see start times below). Period 1 will be with spent with tutors, with pupils receiving updated timetables taking part in a virtual assembly and preparing for the term ahead.
- **Monday 11th January** – P1 will be spent with tutors preparing for forthcoming PPEs. The ordinary timetable will be followed for the remainder of the week.

Vulnerable pupils and children of Key Workers:

- **Tuesday 5th January only:** Pupils to work from home following their new timetabled day (see below). Teachers will upload work for each lesson and a pre-recorded video or live session will form part of each lesson.
- **Wednesday 6th January – Friday 8th January:** return to full time school (see start times below). Pupils will receive their updated timetables during Morning Prep and take part in a virtual Community Briefing. Pupils will then follow their usual timetables, sit in their usual allocated seats, and follow the Blended Learning Model along with their peers at home. When the teacher is delivering a live lesson for pupils at home, pupils in the classroom will take part in the same lesson watching on the Interactive Whiteboard or screen.
- **Monday 11th January** – P1 will be spent with tutors together with the whole tutor group, taking part in a virtual whole school assembly and continuing with the Ethics and Values curriculum.

Keyworker children have been identified through the parent survey, with parents indicating whether they would require a place for their child in a circumstance such as this. If you did request a place and do



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not require it, or you did not request a place and now would like to do so, please email covidupdate@stewardsacademy.org letting us know whether to expect your child from Wednesday 6th January to Friday 8th January. We ask that you double check your eligibility using the following link: [Critical Worker Information](#). If you do not require a place, it is important that you let us know, as the attendance team will make first day calls for those children who are not in school.

Vulnerable pupils – Parents of vulnerable pupils will be contacted separately via ParentMail to confirm that they are eligible to be in school from Wednesday 6th January. Some families will also be contacted via telephone on Monday 4th or Tuesday 5th January.

Testing of Secondary Pupils

You will doubtless have heard in the press that the Government announced yesterday their intention to test secondary pupils from the first week in January. We have received some information and the key points are given below:

- *All schools with secondary-age pupils (including special schools and alternative provision) will be offered the opportunity to test their pupils, reaching as many pupils as possible from the week of the 4th January. The government will encourage as many as possible to take up the offer.*
- *Schools delivering this programme will enable as many staff and pupils as possible to get tested from the first week of term, the week commencing 4th January. This will be done with lateral flow device tests. If the pupil's first test is positive, they should immediately self-isolate and have this positive test confirmed with a standard Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test (they take more time because they are usually processed in a laboratory). If the pupil's first test is negative, they should be tested again 3 days later. If this test is positive, they should self-isolate and confirm this with a PCR test.*
- *Staff, vulnerable children, the children of critical workers and pupils in years 11 will be prioritised.*
- *Pupils will not need to have had a test in order to return to school.*
- *Any participation is voluntary and parental consent will be required.*
- *Schools will be given comprehensive guidance and staff will receive training in order for the tests to be administered.*
- *Rapidly identifying and containing any asymptomatic cases through this testing programme will contribute to public health efforts and support the effectiveness of the regular rapid testing programme that schools with secondary-age pupils are being supported to set up and deliver once this initial testing is concluded. The coronavirus (COVID-19) asymptomatic testing in schools and colleges guidance provides more detail. This will enable school staff to be tested weekly, as well as daily testing of both staff and pupils who are close contacts of a positive case, to avoid the need for self-isolation.*

As a school, we will consider the information as we receive it and will then make a decision whether to offer this facility. **We will contact parents on Monday 4th January with further information regarding testing.**

We wrote to you last Friday asking you to seek a test for your child **prior to returning to school** using the current testing system, as Harlow has been identified as an area with high prevalence of the virus. We have been informed by the Local Authority that this request still stands.

We thank you for your patience and understanding. If you have any urgent enquiries, please email covidupdate@stewardsacademy.org.

Kind regards,

H Ginger

Helen Ginger
Headteacher

Timings of the School Day from January

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
08:35-08:40	Arrival at front gate from 08:35	Arrival at back gate from 08:35			
08:40-08:45					
08:45-08:50	Morning Prep / Intervention	Morning Prep / Intervention	Arrival at front gate from 08:45	Arrival at back gate from 08:45	
08:50-08:55					
08:55-09:00			Morning Prep / Reading	Morning Prep / Reading	Arrival at front gate from 08:55
09:00-09:05					
09:05-09:10					Morning Prep
09:10-09:15	Comfort Break Area B	Comfort Break Area A			
09:15-09:30	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1	Period 1
09:30-09:45					
09:45-10:00					
10:00-10:15					
10:15-10:30					
10:30-10:45	Period 2	Period 2	Break - Area B	Break - Area C	Break - Area A
10:45-11:00			Period 2	Period 2	Period 2
11:00-11:15					
11:15-11:30					
11:30-11:45					
11:45-12:00	Break - Area B	Break - Area A			
12:00-12:15	Period 3	Period 3	Lunch – Area B	Lunch – Area C	Lunch – Area A
12:15-12:30			Period 3	Period 3	Period 3
12:30-12:45					
12:45-13:00					
13:00-13:15					
13:15-13:30	Lunch – Area B	Lunch – Area A			
13:30-13:45	Period 4	Period 4	Break - Area B	Break - Area C	Break - Area A
13:45-14:00			Period 4	Period 4	Period 4
14:00-14:15					
14:15-14:30					
14:30-14:45					
14:45-15:00					
15:00-15:15	Exit via front gate or Afternoon Prep	Exit via back gate or Afternoon Prep			
15:15-15:30	Afternoon Prep	Afternoon Prep	Exit via front gate or Afternoon Prep	Exit via back gate or Afternoon Prep	ACADEMIC PREP
15:30-15:45			Afternoon Prep	Afternoon Prep	
15:45-16:00					Exit via front gate or Afternoon Prep
16:00-16:15					Afternoon Prep
16:15-16:30					