

31 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you and your family are well and have enjoyed the holiday so far.

I wrote to you just before Christmas to outline the requirements for attendance to school in January as they stood at that time. As you will no doubt be aware, yesterday afternoon the Education Secretary announced additional changes to the reopening of schools next term, delaying the planned start date for the majority of secondary school students while testing processes are put in place.

As such, the arrangements at Longsands Academy are as follows:

- Vulnerable children and children of key workers will be welcomed back in school as planned on Tuesday 5 January. Provision will be made for the children of key workers and also vulnerable students if required during this week, including Year 11 students. The criteria used to identify vulnerable children can be [found here](#) and **you should contact Mrs Greaney by 9am on Monday 4th January ([clare.greaney@astrea-longsands.org](mailto:clare.greaney@astrea-longsands.org)) if you wish your child to attend school from Tuesday 5th January in order to book a place.**
- We anticipate that students in Years 11 and 13 will return to school on **Monday 11 January**, learning remotely from home from Tuesday 5 January.
- We anticipate that students in Years 7 to 10 and Year 12 will return to school on **Monday 18 January**, learning remotely from home from Tuesday 5 January.

Students will follow their usual timetable, with a blended learning offer. As far as we are able to, this will include some lessons which will be streamed live via Microsoft Teams (at the same time as that lesson would normally take place in school), pre-recorded lessons and set work to be completed independently. Students will need to check Doodle each day to follow the instructions for each lesson.

Please note the scheduled external exams will proceed as normal during this week. The internal mid-year assessments will be postponed until a later date and we will communicate the dates in due course.

Students who are eligible for Free School Meals will be offered support. A food parcel can be provided for these students to ensure lunch provision for the coming week. Please email [clare.greaney@astrea-longsands.org](mailto:clare.greaney@astrea-longsands.org) by 9am on Monday 4 January if you would like us to provide one of these for your child or children.

Astrea is committed to ensuring every student has access to an electronic device so that they can continue to receive a high quality of education. Should you need to borrow a device for this period please email [enquiries@astrea-longsands.org](mailto:enquiries@astrea-longsands.org) Arrangements will be made for these to be collected on Tuesday 5 January.

As we have done since September, we will do everything we can to help keep staff and students safe, and in the classroom. Following the guidance, we will be able to share more details in terms of our plans for testing in the

coming days. Students have responded very well to the COVID arrangements we have introduced this year – we are confident they will react maturely to this latest measure.

We will try to keep communication as clear and concise as possible, but it is likely that you will hear from us more regularly than usual in the coming days. We need to prepare you for the possibility that these plans will need to change further as the local and national situation changes.

It is clear that the current national picture with regards the pandemic has warranted that all secondary schools take this action in order to limit the spread of the virus. We would ask that all parents and carers try to ensure that their children abide by the new Tier 4 restrictions so that we are able to continue to keep our school community safe.

Thank you again for your ongoing support to the Academy, and for your patience as we work to respond to a rapidly changing context.

Yours sincerely



Mr N D Owen  
**Principal**

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