



**Pittville School**  
Cheltenham

Albert Road, Cheltenham, GL52 3JD  
**telephone** 01242 524787

**fax** 01242 228750

**email** [achieve@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk](mailto:achieve@pittville.gloucs.sch.uk)

**website** [www.pittville.gloucs.sch.uk](http://www.pittville.gloucs.sch.uk)

**Headteacher** Richard Gilpin

18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I would like to thank all the parents and carers who sent in kind words and best wishes to the staff. Your messages were very much appreciated. I continue to be so proud of the school and the local community. I am sure you will have watched with concern and possibly disbelief the various announcements from the Government over the last week. It is ironic that I am writing to you about our plans for the start of term in January given the fact that schools in London were threatened with legal action when they tried to move to remote learning at the end of term. I am sure you will be wondering what this means for your son/daughter in January.

The Government has announced that primary school students and students in Year 11 (and Year 13) will return to school immediately after Christmas, but other secondary age students will return the following week (11<sup>th</sup> January).

### **Arrangements for the start of Spring Term-5<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January - Planned inset for staff-school closed to students
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January - Year 11 students return to school. Students must be in school by 8.35 am as normal.
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January, students in years 7-10 will be taught remotely.
- **Work for Year 9 and 10 students will be set in line with the school timetable (5 lessons each day) to cover intended curriculum aims.**
- **Work for KS3 year groups will be set in line with the school's remote learning timetable to cover intended curriculum aims.**
- Should students have any issues accessing remote learning, contact should be made with the specified SLT Link (see attached document).
- If there are any pastoral concerns parents/students should contact their head of house (please see attached).
- Students in years 7-10 not in school and eligible for free school meals will have vouchers sent to their home address on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January to cover the period 5<sup>th</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> January.

Please see attached document for further details of these arrangements.



### **Key Worker and vulnerable student Provision**

- We will be sending a form via Edulink asking key worker parents if they wish to access in-school provision for their children from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January inclusive. We will be asking you to specify which days you require provision when we send out the Edulink message.
- Students identified as vulnerable or who have an EHCP will be contacted separately by Miss Bottell.
- Students in Years 7-10 who access provision on site during the first week of term should arrive at school at the normal time and via their normal entrance. Start and finish times will remain as normal.
- The normal food provision will be available for students.

### **Testing in Schools**

You may have seen it announced this week that students and teachers will have access to mass testing from January. At the time of writing, we have no firm details as to how this will work. It would seem that the plan is for staff to be tested weekly. Students who are identified as close contacts of someone testing positive can be tested daily for 7 consecutive days and remain in school if they test negative. This testing would be optional, but those not consenting would be subject to the normal 10-day self-isolation ruling.

The Local Authority is advising us to 'watch this space' so we will return to this in January and more information will be available as we receive it. It is too early to be clear on what is expected of the school and the staff.

These announcements do seem rushed. I am usually quite calm and measured but I am truly angered by the timing of these announcements and the lack of clear guidance. I hope at this stage that we have provided the information you need. In the meantime, enjoy the festive break and I will be in touch in the New Year.

Best wishes for a restful holiday.

Mr Gilpin

