



**Pittville School**  
Cheltenham

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**Headteacher** Richard Gilpin

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

### **Re: our approach to the staggered return to school in January 2021**

Further to my letters dated 18<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> December, you will have seen in the news yesterday that the government has changed its plans for the staggered return for students at the start of next term. Following Government advice our plans are:

- Monday, 4th January. This was a planned inset day which will enable us to finalise our planning for rapid-result testing. This will also enable teachers to plan their 'blended' learning for the rest of the week. No remote learning will be set for this day.
- From Tuesday, 5th January on-site provision will be available if needed for students in all year groups 7-11 who are deemed vulnerable (including Education, Health and Care Plan) or within 'critical worker' families. Please complete the Edulink form to request a place if you have not already done so.
- From Tuesday, 5th January site provision will be made for key worker and vulnerable students who are entitled to Free School Meals.
- Between Tuesday, 5th January and Friday, 8th January, all Year Groups (Years 7-11) will be taught remotely. This is part of the Government's request for a 'staggered' approach to the start of term. Please see the attached document for further details. A copy of this can be found on the Coronavirus section of the school website.
- From Monday, 11th January, Year 11 only should attend school as normal.
- Between Monday, 11th January and Friday, 15th January, all other Year Groups (Years 7-10) will continue to be taught remotely. This is part of the Government's request for a 'staggered' approach to the start of term.
- Free School Meal families will continue to receive their vouchers throughout this time. These vouchers should be retained for use over the next two weeks.
- On Monday, 11th January, students in Year 11 will take a rapid-result test, subject to parental/carers consent being given. This is one of two tests required, three days apart. The intention will therefore be to re-test these students on Thursday, 14th January.
- From Monday, 18th January, all students will be back at school and the focus will be on students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 receiving the rapid-result tests, three days apart. Further details will follow.

We will be using the time next week to establish a COVID-19 testing system within the school. Below is a summary of what was contained in my letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> December. A copy of that letter can be found on the school website:



- Students who are identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive will be eligible.
- All staff will be eligible.
- While testing will be optional, we will strongly encourage staff and students to take part.
- We won't ask your child to participate in testing without their consent (or yours, as appropriate). Please complete the consent form on Edulink as soon as possible.
- Year 11 students returning to school first will be offered testing first.
- If someone tests **negative**, they will still need to follow our Covid procedures in school by social distancing, complying with our hygiene measures and wearing a face mask.
- If someone tests **positive**, we will ask them to self-isolate for 10 days in line with government guidance

Thank you so much for your continued support as we respond to this evolving situation.

We look forward to welcoming your child back to school next term in line with the dates above.

Warm regards,



R Gilpin  
Headteacher