



December 31st 2020

Start of Term Update

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and yours are keeping safe and well and have enjoyed a good Christmas. As you are no doubt aware, the Government yesterday announced changes to start of term arrangements which are detailed below. Please contact school via enquiries@colmers.school if you have any queries after reading the information provided.

This letter contains the following information:

- **Return to School Dates & Exam Arrangements**
- **Priority Provision Arrangements**
- **Remote Learning Arrangements**
- **Free School Meals**
- **Safeguarding Arrangements**
- **Rapid Testing plans**
- **COVID-19 Reporting Arrangements**

RETURN TO SCHOOL DATES, JANUARY 2021

Monday January 4th	Staff INSET day. School is closed to all students, no remote learning will be provided by class teachers. Students can access many study resources online from our school remote learning portal and from the Oak National Academy.
Tuesday January 5th	Remote learning for all students except those in Priority Provision (see below). External Exams: Wednesday Jan 6th 9:00 a.m. Year 12 BTEC Sport
Monday January 11th	Year 11 and Year 13 return to school, Year 13 Mock Exams Year 12 return for Mock Exams only, remote learning at other times Years 7, 8, 9, 10 Remote Learning except those in Priority Provision. External Exams: Monday Jan 11th 9:00 a.m. Yr11 Cambridge National Sports Studies Yr13 BTEC Sport Unit 22 13:30p.m. Yr11 Cambridge National iMedia
Monday January 18th	All year groups attend school Year 12 & 13 Mock Exams Week 2

These arrangements are subject to any further changes announced by the Department for Education. Further details will follow regarding Rapid Testing arrangements.



PRIORITY PROVISION

School will remain open to vulnerable students and children of Key Workers.

A letter will come out to individual parents/carers if your child is expected to attend Priority Provision.

If you are a Key Worker and have not yet booked a place in our Priority Provision, please book a space using the following link: <https://bit.ly/3oYxHBO>

If you are very concerned about the well-being of your child learning from home, please contact Main Reception on 0121 453 1778 on Monday January 4th and we will come back to you to discuss the possibility of a place in our Priority Provision.

REMOTE LEARNING

All remote learning will be set online using Class Charts, labelled Blended Learning.

If your child does not have access to a device or internet to complete their remote learning, please contact Main Reception on 0121 453 1778 on Monday January 4th so that we can support with ICT access.

Further details will follow of additional pastoral support sessions that your child will be able to access via Microsoft Teams.

If you or your child are experiencing any difficulty accessing class charts or using your child's school e-mail address, please contact Main Reception on 0121 453 1778 from Monday January 4th and we will be able to assist.

We appreciate that students will need access to writing materials to complete some of their remote learning. Details will follow early next week to advise times you may collect exercise books and writing materials from school if needed.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

We will be issuing vouchers to all families of children who are at home and in receipt of Free School Meals until w/c January 18th. From that point, we will resume providing food packages to students in receipt of free school meals who are self-isolating.

SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

When school resumes on January 4th, our safeguarding team will be available for any safeguarding concerns. In the event you need advice from our school safeguarding team, please contact them via Main Reception on 0121 453 1778.



COVID-19 REPORTING ARRANGEMENTS FROM JAN 4TH

Please do not send your child into school or visit the site for any reason if they or you are displaying any of the key symptoms of coronavirus, which are:

- **A fever**
- **A persistent cough**
- **Loss of taste and/or smell**

If your child tests positive for COVID-19, coronavirus it is essential that you contact us at school to let us know. Please ring Main Reception on 0121 453 1778 to inform us or alternatively, email enquiries@colmers.school to report a positive case. If your child has attended school from January 5th, we will resume contact tracing. If your child has not attended school, we will make a note for our records and will ask you to follow advice from NHS Test and Trace who should be in contact to carry out contact tracing.

RAPID TESTING IN SCHOOL

We are currently putting detailed plans in place to commence rapid testing in school. This involves administering a Rapid Flow Test that delivers results in 30 minutes. We are still to receive full details of what is expected so will keep you updated as the information is clarified.

Currently, we know we will be implementing 3 different strands of Rapid Testing:

- i) Weekly testing of all staff
- ii) Initial Mass Testing of every student
- iii) Serial testing (one test a day for 7 days) for any member of staff or student who is a contact of a positive case: serial testing is an alternative to self-isolation and means that staff and students who have been in contact with a positive case may remain in school if they have a negative test result.

No member of staff or student will be required to take any test without consent.

The proposal for testing has huge benefits reducing the need for self-isolation and reducing the risk to the community by identifying staff and students who may be carrying the virus with no symptoms showing.

Further detailed information will be sent to you early next week.

In addition, two special Parent/Carer Information sessions will be held via Zoom as follows:

Wednesday January 6th at 4p.m. and 6p.m.

Thursday January 7th at 5p.m.

Links to the meetings will be sent to parents and carers on Monday January 4th.

Parent / Carer Volunteers

We would like to hear from any parents and carers who would be available and willing to support the mass testing programme which is likely to take place from Jan 11th over a 2-week period, possibly starting earlier. If you have a background in health or social care in particular, your support would be greatly appreciated. Please email enquiries@colmers.school if you are interested in finding out more.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Tuesday January 5th – School opens for Priority Provision and External Exams Only

Wednesday January 6th – Year 12 BTEC Sport External Exam

Wednesday January 6th – 4p.m. & 6 p.m. Parent/Carer Information Sessions, Rapid Testing, zoom details to follow

Thursday January 7th – 5p.m. Parent/Carer Information Session, Rapid Testing, zoom details to follow

Monday January 11th – Year 11 and Year 13 Return to School

Thursday January 14th – Year 11 Parent/Carer Evening

Monday January 18th – Full return to school for all year groups

Thursday January 25th – Year 8 Parent/Carer Evening

Thursday February 4th – Parent/Carer Forum

Friday February 12th – Last day of Half term

Monday February 15th – Friday February 19th – Half Term

Monday February 22nd – School re-opens to all students

Please note, all parent/carers events will be virtual, details will follow.

Wishing you and yours a positive start to the New Year despite the challenging circumstances.

Best wishes,

Emma Leaman
Headteacher