

Aylesford School

and Sixth Form College



4th January 2021

Dear Parent / Carers

Return to School for the Spring Term – COVID-19 updates

I hope that you have all managed to have a calm and restful Christmas and that 2021 will be a better year for everyone.

It will not have escaped your attention that whilst the prospect of a vaccine brings us all a much needed dose of optimism we are still facing a very difficult few months ahead of us. The re-opening of schools following the holiday break is causing particular concern and there has been considerable speculation in the news about how schools should operate for the new school term.

Unfortunately, although we have been planning since the end of last term, the constant changes to the direction that we have been receiving from the Department for Education have made it necessary to leave it as late as possible before informing you of the arrangements for the re-opening of school.

- Our primary school will open as normal to all students on Tuesday January 5th.
- The secondary school will only be open from Tuesday 5th January to vulnerable students or children whose parents or carers are classed by the government as key workers. It is very important that if you are a critical worker and wish your child to attend school, that you let us know by submitting the appropriate form attached to this email or by completing an easy online version that can be found here: <https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/CriticalWorkerVulnerableStudent>
- All scheduled BTEC examinations will continue as planned and any students involved should attend school for their assessment as required.
- Mock examinations for students in Years 11 and 13 have been rescheduled for the week beginning Monday 11th January and revised timetables will be issued in due course.
- During this first week of term our teaching staff will be providing school work on Show My Homework or Zoom for all year groups where possible but we will be prioritising those students in Years 11 and 13 who are due to take public examinations later this year.

- In line with government instructions, we are preparing to provide ‘Lateral Flow’ rapid COVID-19 tests for all staff and secondary age students at the school and I will be in touch with you shortly to explain the arrangements in more detail. Please refer to the letter from the 2nd January on the school website in regards to information about the Lateral Flow test and consent. Here is the link: [COVID-19 Updates](#)
- In order for your child to have access to the test, it is absolutely essential that you provide us with the appropriate consent either on the appropriate form attached to this email or by completing the easy online form that can be found here and on the school website:

<https://freeonlinesurveys.com/s/LaterflowTestConsentandRegistrationForm>

It is almost certain that there will be further changes that we will have to make in response to the pandemic. As a result, I will be in regular contact with you via email over the next few weeks to ensure that you are aware of what is happening and we will keep our website constantly updated with the very latest information.

In the meantime, we will continue to work with you to support the education of the young people in our care and the wellbeing of all those in our school community.

Yours faithfully

Tim Hodgson
Headteacher



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