

18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Government Announcement of Staggered Start to Spring Term 2021

Many of you will have heard yesterday's surprise announcement that the government has decided to stagger the return of secondary school students after the Christmas vacation. It has also been announced that children and staff will receive lateral flow COVID tests on their return. I understand further information will be provided to schools and colleges in the days ahead on how the tests are to be administered. So close to the end of term, I regret we shall not be able to provide additional information.

As communication with parents is more difficult during the holiday – please can I ask that you check the school's website at www.arnewood.hants.sch.uk/covid-19 as any further updates will be posted on this webpage. It is not inconceivable plans will need to change again once we have been told how the COVID test are to be administered and by whom.

In line with the direction received already from the Department for Education, my current intention is that students in: -

- Year 11, 12 and 13 should return to school on Tuesday 5th January 2021
- Years 7 to 10 should return on Monday 11th January 2021

The timing of the school day will be as it is currently and students will be required to remain in their year group bubble.

Students with EHCPs, social workers, or otherwise identified as vulnerable may attend school from Tuesday 5th January. Children of key workers are also eligible to receive education on site from this date. Please email enquiries@arnewood.hants.sch.uk stating your child's name and year group, by Monday 4th January 2021 if you wish to make use of this facility.

All other students will be set work online from Tuesday 5th January 2021 as during the period of school closure between March and July this year. Please check your son/daughter's school Firefly account for work during the first week of the new term if they are not attending lessons in school. We plan to offer some livestreamed lessons. Our approach is that these will support, not replace, Firefly content. A separate help sheet is attached to this letter for those who are unfamiliar with ZOOM.

If your child is eligible for free school meals, not attending school during the first week back, and you are in hardship please contact Mrs Donna Lenton (D.Lenton@arnewood.hants.sch.uk) in confidence so that we can assist.

Once again, my best wishes for happy Christmas holiday – stay safe!

Yours faithfully

N. Pressnell
Headteacher