



St Albans Girls' School

Learning for Life in a Community where All can Excel

31 December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I advised last week that I would write to you about the start of term arrangements for January 2021 and following clarification from the government yesterday, I can confirm the following:

Monday 11 January 2021 students in Years 11 and 13 will return to school for face-to-face teaching.

Monday 18 January 2021 students in all other year groups 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12 will return to school for face-to-face teaching.

However, from the start of term **Tuesday 5 January 2021**, all students will have access to and be **expected** to join online learning, receiving their usual timetable of lessons and subjects, except for core PE.

The exception to this is that the school will be open from **Tuesday 5 January 2021** for children of key worker families and vulnerable students; the definitions for which are those parents/carers who work in the NHS or adult care, students with an EHCP and/or those with a social worker. Please contact Ms Thomas, Deputy Head directly, for further information via kts@stags.herts.sch.uk.

I am extremely grateful to the parents/carers who have contacted me during the holiday period to offer support with the organisation of the Lateral Flow Testing. When we receive the tests into school on Monday, and we know how many tests we have been sent in the first instance, we will be in a position to share with you the full testing organisational arrangements. This will include a video to share with all students to allay any concerns.

We have utilised the Edulink platform for access to the consent form and I have attached details of how you can complete this form. The initial tests have to be administered twice, three to five days apart and students will be invited into school at specific times to take the tests. The purpose of these tests is to stop the spread of the virus but the same requirements of social distancing, HANDS, FACE, SPACE, will be in operation regardless of the testing regime. This has served us well in the autumn term and meant that we have kept cases to a minimum and students have been able to continue with their learning in an environment which is as safe and secure as possible. Please complete the form on EduLink by **8 January 2021**.

This has only been possible with your great support. If your daughter has been unwell, you have shared this with us or if you have had any doubt you have contacted us. You have shared whether there is a positive test in your family and have quickly arrived at school if we have called you, thus minimising risk for others.

In the meantime, we also continue to Track and Trace and you are reminded that if your daughter/son is unwell, not to attend the school and to take a Covid-19 test. Please continue to update us of any positive Covid cases via head@stags.herts.sch.uk.

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This has, and continues to be, a momentous team effort including the whole school community. We want your daughters/sons in their classrooms learning and enjoying the rich opportunities that extra-curricular clubs provide, but we know that we also need to follow the guidelines and be cautious to enable these activities to return.

Remote Learning January 2021

There will be Google Meet live learning for all students as per the school timetable for every subject, with the exception of core PE. Google Meet codes for lessons and any instructions will be distributed to students via Google Classroom or Edulink. All supporting materials will be uploaded onto Google Classroom as usual. Your daughter/son's timetable can also be accessed via the Edulink portal and a link to the timings of the school day are included below - as well as links to Google Classroom and Edulink. There will be an interactive element via Google Meet for all Remote Learning - Looms, Google Slides and other materials may also be used to complement learning. Registers will be taken to monitor students' attendance at remote lessons.

Please note that when we return to timetabled Remote Learning on 5 January 2021, we will be in timetable *Week 2* and the week beginning 11 January is timetable *Week 1*.

For Google Meet learning, please keep in mind the following guidance:

- Students should be appropriately dressed
- Students should be in front of a plain background or wall
- It is preferable for students' cameras to be switched on and to be using headphones to hear the session
- Behaviour expectations match those of classroom learning

If there are any questions about any aspect of Remote Learning, please contact the appropriate Curriculum Leader for subject specific queries or our Network team for access queries via an email to admin@stags.herts.sch.uk - or with general queries to Deputy Headteacher, Mr Kershaw directly via an email to pkw@stags.herts.sch.uk. Students should email teachers directly with questions about a specific learning session.

Please contact your daughter's Director of Learning or Head of Key Stage for any queries or for pastoral support. For any safeguarding concerns, please contact our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Ms Thomas via kts@stags.herts.sch.uk.

With all good wishes for a very Happy and Healthy New Year.



Margaret Chapman
Head Teacher

(See links below)



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Links

1. [Edulink access](#)
2. [Google Classroom access](#)
3. [Essential Links to support Remote Learning \(by department for KS4 and KS5 students\)](#)
4. [Online Safety guidance](#)
5. [Timings of the School Day](#)

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