

7th January 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope you are all keeping well and safe and had a restful Christmas break.

Following the Government's introduction of another national lockdown and subsequent school closures due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the school has been reviewing its health and safety measures and staffing levels in order to assess what learning provision we believe we can reasonably and safely offer over the next few weeks.

Whilst we absolutely acknowledge that this situation is challenging for everyone and appreciate the vulnerabilities of all of our students as a result of their additional needs, it is vital that we ensure our setting is safe for all students and staff. As previously explained, the size and layout of our school combined with the complex needs of our students makes risk management a challenging task and whilst we would very much like to have all of our young people back on site as normal, we must work within the extreme and extenuating circumstances this virus presents us with.

Since the lockdown announcement on Monday evening we have been liaising with the relevant authorities in order to identify a safe way forward to deliver some in-school learning to all students as we understand the benefits of face-to-face time with teachers, socialisation with peers and respite time for parents.

Taking into account COVID-19 specific health and safety considerations, we have decided that we can offer the following provision over the next 3 weeks:

- w/c 11th – a skeleton provision for students identified as vulnerable due to safeguarding, behaviour plans or parents' critical worker status. Parents will be contacted to confirm if this includes their child.
- w/c 18th and w/c 25th - we will be able to offer a part-time in school/home school provision. This would see half of the students in the building Monday/Tuesday and half on Thursday/Friday, with home learning on the alternate days and a school closure on Wednesdays for cleaning and teacher planning & preparation. (Students identified as vulnerable due to safeguarding, behaviour plans or parents' critical worker status will attend school on all 4 days). Our class teachers will be in contact with you to confirm the specific days for your child to come to school, and we will coordinate transport accordingly.

We do appreciate the need for families to make arrangements and plan their work and child care commitments, hence we endeavour to update you as soon as possible about our provision for the subsequent weeks up to the February half term and, of course, as and when anything changes in response to revised Government regulations.

We ask that you please bear with our teachers while they work hard to offer a combined in-school and home-learning provision. As you can imagine, our students' wide range of learning needs means

that it can be challenging during this difficult period to meet the needs and requirements of each student at all times although we know our staff are giving their absolute best. They are also very open to feedback you may want to give.

If you have any questions or concerns about home-learning or how to access resources such as Google Suites or Ping please do reach out to your class teachers who will be happy to help. For any other questions or concerns please contact the Headteachers or Mrs Routley who will be able to assist.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely

Verity Carnevale and Holly Bristow