



*Be inspired and achieve together*

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

On the afternoon of Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December, our last day of term with students in school, the government announced via the media that the return to secondary school in January will be staggered in England, with some pupils studying online rather than in class.

The Spring term begins on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. All students in Years 11 and Year 13 are required to be in school as normal and will be following their normal timetable. Those students in Years 10 and Year 12 who have vocational examinations that week will also be required to attend school at specific times and separate communications will be shared with parents and carers of those students.

For the first week back in January students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will need to access remote learning from home and must not come in to school. Parents and carers will receive separate information from Ms Nichols, regarding remote learning.

Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 who fall into any of the following categories will be expected in school in the first week of January:

- Children of Critical Workers
- Children with an EHCP (Education Health Care Plan)
- Children with social worker involvement
- Vulnerable students

In order to enable us to plan coverage for **Critical workers' children ONLY** (we have the other groups' information), it is imperative that only parents/carers of students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 who are Critical Workers **please complete the survey below as soon as possible:**

<https://forms.gle/2G8nuGUMmT35ehdM8>

For these young people we will be running supervised study of work that has been set for all learners.

In addition to those students mentioned above we will also be inviting Year 10 and Year 12 students who are due to take vocational examinations in **Sport** and **Health & Social Care** to attend at given times during the week. A separate email providing the date and times of these sessions will be sent to parents/carers prior to them taking place.

We will be providing a food parcel for every child that is eligible for Free school meals and not able to attend school during the week. Further details regarding collection of the parcel will be emailed out to parents prior to the start of term.

### **Mass testing programme**

We are positive about the potential for the mass testing of pupils and staff in schools, as a way of reducing the spread of the virus and enabling fewer pupils and staff to have to self-isolate. You can read more about how the government expects this programme to work [here](#).

Setting up this programme in schools is an incredibly complex operation. We have been sent some information about how it should work already, but more detailed guidance is expected to be produced by the government over the Christmas holiday period.

We will not, therefore, be in position to have this programme up and running as soon as the spring term starts. At the start of term, we will review what the expectations are, what support is available from the government or other agencies, and what we can realistically deliver.

Arnold Hill Academy is part of the Spencer Academies Trust

Registered office: Arthur Mee Road, Stapleford, Nottingham NG9 7EW

The company's registered number is 7353824



We will let you know more about our plans as soon as we can in January. In the meantime, from the start of next term, we will continue to implement the safety measures we have been using in the autumn term.

Please accept our apologies for having to send this letter after term has already ended. We are having to respond to a vast quantity of extremely last minute and complex government guidance.

We are acutely aware of the additional stress and pressure our Year 11 and 13 students will be under. It is imperative that they remain focused on any work set as they will still be progressing to the next stage of education/training.

These are extraordinary times and your children are extraordinary young people and we look forward to welcoming them back at the appropriate time in January.

Thank you for your patience, and all best wishes for a safe and enjoyable Christmas holiday.

With best wishes,

Matt Robertson  
**Principal**