



CENTRAL FOUNDATION BOYS' SCHOOL

6th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Arrangements for education

Unfortunately, I am having to write only a few days after my last letter to you. Following on from the announcement by the Prime Minister of a national lockdown starting today, Wednesday 6th January, we now have new arrangements for the half term up until February 12th. This follows from the decision to close all schools to students with the exception of the children of critical workers and vulnerable children from Tuesday 5th January until Friday 12th February.

Arrangements for the Spring Term – first half of the term (HT3)

In line with the government announcement with regard to the national lockdown, the amended arrangements for the half term are as follows:-

- **Monday 4th January** – INSET day – school open to staff only
- **Tuesday 5th – Friday 8th January** – remote learning for Year 11 and Year 13 only while the remaining Year groups are on an extended term break
- **Monday 11th January to 12th February** – home learning for all students

Home learning will continue until half-term at least.

Arrangements for workbook collection

The remote learning of the students will be based upon the students' workbooks. Many students took these workbooks home with them on the last day of term. We are, however, arranging a collection of workbooks by the students, which will include new ones required for later on in the term.

Year 13, 11 and 9 have already had their collection days. The remaining collection days are:-

Year 7 – Wednesday 6th January

Year 8 and 12 – Thursday 7th January

Year 10 – Friday 8th January

HEADTEACHER: JAMIE BROWNHILL

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We will communicate time slots for all students. Strict processes are in place during the collection to ensure the safety of all involved.

If students have missed their time slot they should contact the school to arrange another collection slot.

Arrangements for remote learning

We will deliver a remote teaching programme that involves, in most circumstances, the lessons being broadcast live. The lessons will follow the students daily timetable, and will start with registration at 8.55 a.m. each morning.

A separate letter relating to remote learning will be sent to all parents.

Arrangements for the children of critical workers and vulnerable children

During the period of national lockdown, government guidance provides that we should only allow vulnerable children and the children of critical workers to attend. Children with at least one parent or carer who is listed as a critical worker are eligible for a school place. It is not necessary for both parents to be critical workers. If a parent is a critical worker they should contact the school to request a place in this provision. The definition of a critical worker can be found at this link <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Arrangements for mass coronavirus asymptomatic testing in school

The school has the facility to administer the COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'. Currently, all staff and students who are on the school site are being offered these tests. The intention is for these tests be available to be taken at the point that students and staff start provision on the school site and on a weekly basis from that point forward. Along with the other protective measures we are taking, these tests will help staff and students to remain in school safely.

Free School Meals

The school will continue to provide vouchers for Free School Meals using Edenred FSM school vouchers system, which will email an e-code to parents and carers registered on school system.

The e-code, for a supermarket voucher, will be emailed on the 7th January; the vouchers will be of £30 value for a two weeks period until 15th January.

Further details and FAQ's can be found here:

<https://www.edenred.co.uk/reward-recipient/Free-School-Meal-Vouchers/>

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Year 11, 12 and Year 13 exams

The government has announced that it does not consider it possible for A level, GCSE or vocational exams to go ahead fairly this summer. They have stated that they are asking Ofqual, the national exams regulator, to consult rapidly on an approach for alternative arrangements that will allow students to progress fairly. At this point, we have no indication about how this is going to operate. As soon as we do receive guidance, I will be writing to all students and parents to provide the details about how the school will be acting upon the guidance.

I appreciate that this is a very difficult situation for students and their families. At this point, I do have to say that it is important that students carry on with their studies as they would if the exams were to take place. The acquisition of knowledge and the ability to apply that knowledge is one of the fundamental aims of education, of course. For this reason, it is important that the students complete their programme of study. We hope that the next stage of the students' learning journey will be free of the interruptions of the last year and the completion of their current courses will provide them with the best possible opportunity to be successful in that next stage.

I would like to thank all of our parents and carers once again for their support of the school through this period. I will repeat our absolute commitment to both recognising and understanding the impact this period has had on our students, and working with you to do all that we can to ensure that we limit its short and long term impact on their lives.

With best wishes,

Jamie Brownhill
Headteacher

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