

5 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing with reference to the Prime Minister's announcement last night and would like to provide an update for you.

As of today we commenced remote learning for all students except those children of keyworkers/vulnerable children who have elected to receive provision in school. All work will be delivered via Microsoft Teams as Mr Barry Williams explained in his letter to you yesterday. There are a number of short instructional videos on using Microsoft Teams on our website. Please click on 'School Life' and then 'Using Microsoft Teams' to access them. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr Williams should you require further assistance [bwilliams@blandfordschool.org.uk](mailto:bwilliams@blandfordschool.org.uk). Any queries about keyworker provision should be addressed to Mrs Penny White [pwhite@blandfordschool.org.uk](mailto:pwhite@blandfordschool.org.uk). Students in school are not required to be in uniform from tomorrow. Year 9 students would have commenced their options programme this week, more details will follow from Mr Duncan Smith later this week or early next week.

We had been expecting to commence mass C19 testing of all students this week. Given the recent announcement we will shortly start testing students who are in school and staff will also be tested; information regarding this, including consent forms, will be sent out in a separate mailing. Obviously, we will also be planning ahead to when more students are in school and will ensure our testing regime is set up in readiness.

The Prime Minister announced it will not be possible for exams to go ahead fairly this summer and the Secretary of State is currently consulting with Ofqual on alternative arrangements. I would like to extend the best wishes of my staff team to all students affected by this decision and ask students to continue to focus on their studies and follow the advice and guidance of teachers in order to ensure the best possible outcomes. When we have more information we will share this with you.

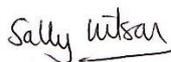
The January series of examinations are continuing and other colleagues have been in touch with individual students to ensure they are prepared and supported.

I will continue to update you during the next few weeks as we work towards the provisional return date for all students of Monday, 22 February 2021.

Please be aware at the time of writing we still have some systems issues in school so if you need to get in touch our office email is the best contact point, [office@blandfordschool.org.uk](mailto:office@blandfordschool.org.uk).

Thank you very much for your continued support.

Yours sincerely



Sally Wilson  
Headteacher

