

Headteacher: Dr. J Bartlett – NPQH, PGCE, D.Phil, M.Chem **Specialisms:** Mathematics

31st December 2020

Dear parent or carer,

I hope my message finds you safe and well, and that you and your family are enjoying a restful break.

Following on from yesterday's government announcement on when students across the country can return to their schools and academies in January, I am writing to confirm our updated arrangements for the new term.

Whilst we had planned to welcome our year 11 students back into the academy on Tuesday 5th January, with all others returning on Monday 11th January, the government has announced that only our most vulnerable students and the children of critical workers across all year groups should attend the academy in the first week of January.

This was the situation when we first entered national lockdown in March 2020. If you have any questions about whether your child should attend as part of these groups, please contact us on Monday 4th January on 0121 464 5191 or by email to shenley.enquiry@e-act.org.uk.

All other students are asked to stay at home in line with the dates shown below, with year 11 students being taught remotely from Tuesday 5th January and all other students receiving a remote education from Monday 11th January.

Key return dates

- Tuesday 5th January: only our most vulnerable students and the children of critical workers across all year groups can return to the academy
- Monday 11th January: year 11 students return to the academy
- Monday 18th January: all other students return to the academy

Please note that the government is keeping these dates under review, so we will be in touch if anything changes.

Why have we been asked to take this approach in the first few weeks of term?

The government has implemented a phased return in the first few weeks of term to give secondary schools and academies the time and space to prepare for the rollout of COVID-19 testing.



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As mentioned in my note to you before the holidays, we will soon have the ability to test our staff weekly and have daily testing of both staff and students who are close contacts of a positive case within the academy. In addition, we are making preparations for all students to be offered two tests (three to five days apart) in the first few weeks of term.

Please note that parental consent will first be sought before any testing begins at the academy. A consent form and further information on the dates of testing will be sent to you in the week beginning 4th January.

To help answer any questions, we have put together a guide to COVID-19 testing for parents and carers which is also attached. The guide contains information on everything from how the tests work to the support our students and staff can expect to receive during testing.

Remote education arrangements for students

We have plans in place which mean that the students who must stay at home for the beginning of term can continue their learning without disruption, using Microsoft Teams. Students will have daily contact with their teachers and will continue to be taught a wide range of subjects in line with their academy timetables where possible.

We will be taking a daily register and our teachers will closely monitor progression, adjusting pace or difficulty of work where necessary.

Please visit our website, <https://shenleyacademy.e-act.org.uk/useful-info/information-for-current-parents/> for more information.

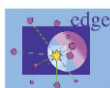
For students entitled to free school meals

Details of the arrangements for students who are eligible for free school meals and are being taught remotely will be provided in the week beginning Monday 4th January.

Ensuring the safety of students and staff in academy

Please rest assured that all our students and staff will continue to have access to the safest possible environment when they return. Our students will continue to be kept within their bubbles, and our COVID safety measures, which include regular and focussed cleaning, good ventilation and ensuring good hand and respiratory hygiene will be reinforced at all times.

Public Health England have made clear that our safety measures are proving vital in helping to prevent the spread of infection within our academies.



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Who should I inform if my child tests positive for the virus?

The process of notification differs slightly as we near the end of the holidays:

- If your child or someone else within your household tests positive for COVID-19 between now and Sunday 3 January: please follow contact tracing instructions provided by NHS Test and Trace and email the details to absent@e-act.org.uk
- If your child or someone else within your household tests positive for COVID-19 from Monday 4th January onwards: please let the academy know by emailing the details to shenley.enquiry@e-act.org.uk or by calling 0121 464 5191.

Thank you for your support

I completely appreciate and understand that some parents and carers will be anxious about what lies ahead, and that many of you will be concerned about the safety of your child given the prevalence of the virus across many parts of the country.

However, we hope that by being able to carry out regular testing from January, we can keep our children safe, in front of their teachers and in education where they have the best chance of fulfilling their undoubted potential.

I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support, and ask that you please get in touch with any questions.

Kind regards,



Dr J Bartlett
Headteacher