

SQUIRES AVENUE  
BULWELL  
NOTTINGHAM  
NG6 8HG

PRINCIPAL: MICHELLE STRONG  
T +44 (0)115 964 7640  
E enquiries@bulwellacademy.org.uk  
www.bulwellacademy.org.uk



**THE BULWELL  
ACADEMY**  
*Creative  
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31 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Important information following Government Announcement 30.12.2020**

I hope you have all managed to have a lovely Christmas, even if for most of us it has been very different to normal.

### **Updated Staggered Start Dates January 2021**

As you may have seen in the news, the Government announced late yesterday that the staggered return to school for all secondary school students has been amended.

I fully appreciate that many of you will be frustrated at this news, and as a headteacher I share the same frustrations. However, I do believe that one of the main reasons for a staggered return is to try to halt the ongoing rise in infections and we must all do our best to ensure this happens by reducing the number of households mixing.

Therefore, the revised start of term will be as follows:

- Week beginning **Monday 4 January 2021** – Monday will be a staff training day (school closed to all students). On Tuesday, school will be open for face to face learning for vulnerable children (those with an Education, Health and Care Plan and/or social worker) and the children of key workers. Please contact your child's year manager if you are a key worker and would like your child to be in school.

Remote learning will take place following the normal timetable via ClassCharts for Years 7, 8 and 9 and via Microsoft Teams for students in Years 10, 11 and Post 16. A timetable for any live lessons for Teams will be sent out on Monday.

- Week beginning **Monday 11 January 2021** – we expect all Year 11 and Post 16 students along with all children of key workers and all vulnerable students to return to the Academy and be in lessons as normal, as advised by the Government.

Remote learning via ClassCharts or Teams will be provided for all remaining students in Years 7 to 10. A timetable for live Year 10 lessons will follow next week.

- Week beginning **Monday 18 January 2021** – all students are expected to return to school unless they are self-isolating.



Post 16, Year 10 and Year 11 should all be equipped to access remote learning via Microsoft Teams. We will contact those families where we know students are without access to the internet to offer alternatives and will continue to provide electronic equipment to students as and when we can.

All Post 16, Year 10 and Year 11 vocational examinations timetabled for the first weeks of January will take place as planned. We will contact the students involved separately to confirm arrangements and any revision sessions we are able to plan. It is essential students attend these revision lessons and of course the exams. They are national exams and count towards the student's final exam grade.

### Important Reminders

- When students return to school, all students are expected to be in **full school uniform** and bring with them their **full PE kit on days when they have PE**.
- ***It is also important, now more than ever, that all students, unless exempt, bring their own face masks and I would ask for your support in ensuring this happens.*** Students who persistently do not bring their own mask going forward will be sanctioned accordingly.

### Coronavirus Testing

As you will have seen in the press yesterday, the Department for Education is intending to roll out a programme of on-site asymptomatic coronavirus testing for secondary schools in January 2021 and they hope to continue with primary schools in February.

The Department for Education believe that in the long run this will help us to minimise Covid cases in our schools and minimise the disruption caused by staff and students needing to self-isolate. Early identification of asymptomatic cases will reduce the need to self-isolate because of track and trace.

In order for there to be no concern or confusion, we will **not** have our testing centre facility open by next week, as staffing for testing is not yet in place given the timing of the announcement. I will set up our testing centre as soon as I know that I can do so safely and effectively and will work to do this as quickly as possible.

***If anyone would like to volunteer to support the testing programme at the Academy, please contact me via email on [enquiries@buhwellacademy.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@buhwellacademy.org.uk).***

Once again, apologies for any inconvenience the announcement may cause. I will be in touch again with further information relating to testing in due course.

As ever, I thank you for your continued patience, support and understanding. Wishing you all a Happy New Year!

Yours sincerely

Mrs M Strong  
Principal