

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that you have had a lovely Christmas.

I am writing to you to inform you of the Academy's position after the announcements made by the Government on 30th December in light of the increasing infection rates from Covid-19.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/education-secretary-sets-out-school-contingency-plans-for-england>

On Monday 4th January, pupils in Years 5 and 6 will return to the Academy as they have done from the start of the academic year in September. They will be receiving their normal lessons and curriculum and the restrictions and mitigations put in place to keep them safe during the pandemic remain in place.

Pupils in Year 7 and 8 (those of secondary age) will not return unless you as their parents/carers are a critical worker or the pupil is deemed vulnerable and you still wish to send your child into school. The definition and criteria for this can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Could you please inform the school, on our Covid email below, as soon as possible, should you be deemed as a critical worker, outlining your role with ID provided, and what days you need provision:

[Covid@woodhouseacademy.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:Covid@woodhouseacademy.staffs.sch.uk)

Pupils in Year 7 and 8 will access remote learning until their currently planned return date of the Monday 18th January. Information regarding this was sent to all parents prior to the Christmas break, along with the timetable, links to live lessons and the code of conduct for home learning. Please refer to this.

We will keep you updated such this date or any other information change during this period. Within the announcements made, 'Mass Flow Testing' is now a mandatory expectation for all pupils in year 7 and 8. I will be writing to you with further information regarding how the Academy is going to implement this, your support with this testing and to gain your consent for your child to be tested.

As we will need additional support for our testing programme in school, if any of you would like to volunteer, particularly if you have experience in the field of testing or medical, I would be delighted and very grateful if you could indicate that you are interested and your availability. Please contact our school office on the following email:

[office@woodhouseacademy.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@woodhouseacademy.staffs.sch.uk)

Once again, I am very grateful for your support currently and during the Autumn term and will continue to update you when I receive further information.

Wishing you all a lovely, if albeit restricted, new year celebration and let's look for the positives from 2020 and the new year to come.

Many thanks

Mrs D Farr

Principal

Woodhouse Academy