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Thursday 31 December 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have had a relaxing Christmas and are looking forward to what I hope will be a very positive new year.

I am sure you are aware on December 30 the Department for Education announced additional changes to the start of the Spring Term for secondary school students in order to make appropriate arrangements for schools to administer COVID tests to all staff and students. Please find below our updated plans for the start of the spring term.

Confirmed new start of term arrangements?

The return to school for students will be as follows (school buses will continue to run throughout this period):

Monday 4 January – Whole school inset day (No online learning provision)

Tuesday 5 January – Additional Inset day for staff to prepare remote online resources (No online learning provision). Students of Key workers and those with an EHCP will be supervised in school if a place has been requested. See below for details.

Wednesday 6 January to Friday 8 January – All years (7-11) to receive remote online learning

Week Beginning Monday 11 January

Year 11 will return to school on Monday 11 January and have their normal timetabled lessons.

Year 7-10 will continue to learn remotely from Monday 11 January to Friday 15 January.

Week beginning Monday 18 January – All students return to school for normal lessons

Is there a provision for children of key workers, those who have an EHCP or do not have access to the internet?

If your child is in Year 7-11 and has an EHCP; if they do not have access to the internet through any device or if you are a key worker then your child can come into school on Tuesday 5 January – Friday 15 January. We do need to know if this is your intention so in the first instance please fill in this questionnaire or if you cannot access this please email bburland@pilton.college detailing your child's name, their tutor group and why you require a place. If you have completed this questionnaire already there is no need to complete it again.

Students will need to attend in PE Kit from 8:50 am and attend the following locations.

Year 7 – Languages computer room

Year 8 – C1 and C2 computer room

Year 9 – Science computer room

Year 10 – C3 computer room

Year 11 – Library

Only a limited food service will be available. You may wish to provide your child with a packed lunch. All students will be supervised throughout the school day, this includes social time.

How will the online learning be delivered?

From Wednesday 6 January to Friday 15 January all teachers will be in school to deliver remote learning lessons during their usual timetabled slots. Teachers will set up the lessons and invite students to join them via Microsoft teams. Lesson invites will appear in their Teams calendar. Students will then have input via a live lesson, via the chat facility or through the microphone. We do ask that all students joining live lessons keep their cameras switched off at all times.

Lessons will be a minimum of 40 minutes long so that teachers and students can join the next class and set up any resources that they may be using. The timetable for lessons can be found below and will start with week 1.

Period 1

9:00 – 9:40

Period 2

10:00 – 10:40

Break

11:00 – 11:30

Period 3

11:30 – 12:10

Period 4

12:30 – 1:10

Lunch

1:30 – 2:00

Period 5

2:00 – 2:40

Attendance of our remote online learning programme is compulsory for all students. We shall be asking staff to take a register for each lesson. It is therefore vital to contact the school if you cannot access Microsoft Teams at home so that we can assist you. If you do not have access to a device you are able to attend school as part of our onsite provision.

Is there any help if a student doesn't know how to get onto Teams?

Students have been given cards with their log in details. You should also have received a personalised letter with the same information via your child.

Students have used Teams in a variety of lessons and for homework. If your child cannot remember their password please email admin@pilton.college to request a reset.

There will be a help video available from Tuesday 5 January on the home page of website which demonstrates how to access Teams, where the lessons will take place and how to access work.

When will the testing take place?

We are still finalising our plans for the onsite testing of staff and students. Full details will be provided next week regarding our approach, arrangements and consent etc.

I would like to thank you for all your support during a very difficult year and look forward to more normal year ahead.

Yours Faithfully



Mr Graham Hill

Headteacher