

5th January 2021



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Dear Parent/Carer

RE: School Lockdown Provision

I trust this letter finds you well. Following my letter on Sunday 3 January, I can honestly say I was not expecting to have to write to you again so soon regarding further changes to our provision.

As announced by the Prime Minister, school closures as part of the 3rd National Lockdown, has taken many of us by surprise. This letter confirms Pilton Community College will be closed to all students except those who are deemed vulnerable; students who have an EHCP and those whose parents are designated Key Workers. The following link provides you with a list of Key Workers - [list of Key workers](#)

If you meet one of these criteria then please complete this [questionnaire](#) link to request a place (If you have already completed this questionnaire there is no need to complete it again). You will be allocated a place for full time onsite provision. If you decide during this lockdown not to send your child in on a specific day, please contact the school to inform us of your intentions. Students should wear PE kit and always follow our high behaviour expectations. Students will follow the same remote online learning programme as students working from home.

The Prime Minister also announced “...it is not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal. The Education Secretary will work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements.” Unfortunately, we do not have any further information regarding these arrangements. We shall send you details as soon as we receive them from the DFE. We assume that these arrangements will include some form of assessment, it is therefore vital that Year 11 students continue to engage with their GCSE subjects and work as though there is an examination in June. We do intend to hold additional mock examinations in March. Details of these will be sent in due course. This announcement will have created a great deal of uncertainty and disappointment for you, Year 11 students and staff. Students have been working so hard and have been incredibly resilient since the Pandemic started and we know that all students will rise to this next lockdown challenge. Through our approach to online remote learning we feel we can provide the best educational provision for all students during this chaotic term.

How will the online learning be delivered?

From Wednesday 6 January all lessons will be delivered remotely through Microsoft Teams. I would like to thank our staff for their outstanding efforts in developing and adapting their teaching resources so that they can be delivered either live, pre-recorded or through assignment-based activities. Teachers will set up their lessons and invite students to join them via Microsoft Teams. Lesson invites will appear in every student’s Teams calendar. Teachers will start the lesson by welcoming students, taking a register and explaining the outline of the lesson. Through a variety of methods, teachers will teach the curriculum and ask students to complete tasks that would have been covered had lockdown not occurred.

Wednesday 6 January will be the first day of full-time remote learning for all students. During the first few days of this provision we fully expect teething errors, tech and device issues and login problems to occur. If you are having any problems please contact the school on admin@pilton.college A member of staff will be in touch to help or advise on a solution.

We do ask that all students joining live lessons **keep their cameras switched off** at all times. Lessons are compulsory and will be approximately 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

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.

A help video is available on our homepage which demonstrates how to access Teams, where the lessons will take place and how to access work.

Will the Covid Lateral Flow testing take place?

Plans to test the whole school cohort have now been superseded by the closure of schools announced on Monday. We are still planning to offer all our staff weekly Lateral Flow Rapid tests and give students who are accessing our onsite provision the opportunity to have regular tests providing parents have given their consent.

This is an ever-changing picture. As soon as we have any confirmed new information we will be in touch. If you have any questions, queries, concerns or need help accessing our programme please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully



Mr Graham Hill
Headteacher