

Saint Bede's Catholic High School

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Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope that you and your families enjoyed a happy and peaceful Christmas and are safe and well.

Following the government briefings this afternoon, we are now in a position to outline the arrangements for the Spring Term. As you aware, it is the government's intention to stagger the return of pupils to school and to introduce a programme of additional Covid-19 testing for pupils and staff in secondary schools. We are due to receive the tests and further guidance on 4th January. The DfE have said that schools should identify a planning or 'logistics' day where pupils are not in school to ensure the safe implementation of the tests. We have identified Monday 4th January as the planning day.

I will write further next week to outline the arrangements for conducting the tests in Saint Bede's, but would want to summarise what we know so far:

The Staggered Return to School

Monday 4th January	'Logistics Day' – school closed to all pupils
From 5th January	School open to children of critical workers and vulnerable pupils
From 11th January	Year 11 return to school
From 18th January	All pupils return to school

From Tuesday 5th January, remote learning will be arranged through Firefly. Please note that pupils will be expected to be online and engaged in their learning throughout; we will stress to them that they should not see this week as an extension of the holidays. As such, work will be set in line with the current curriculum. Our subject leaders will be ensuring the high quality of remote learning provided. Please contact us directly if access to a device would be difficult for your child.

Children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable Pupils

Pupils in Years 7-10, whose parents are 'critical workers' or are classed as 'vulnerable' ([guidance](#)) may attend school from Tuesday 5th January. If these criteria apply, and you would wish your child to attend school during these days, then please contact **Mrs. Susan Kelly** (sfkelly@stbedeslytham.lancs.sch.uk) **by 1pm on 1st January to confirm this.**

Such pupils will need to come to school in full school uniform as normal with books/equipment and a suitable device. They will be engaged in the online learning being provided for other pupils but accessing it here in school under supervision. Each year group will follow the routines and timings (staggered start/end times etc.) established during the Autumn Term. Further information about transport and catering will be sent to parents who opt for this provision.

I will write to you again with further details as they are made known to schools. However, I am conscious of the high degree of uncertainty and that significant national/regional changes could take place in the coming days and weeks. What I can be certain of, is that we will do all we can to keep your children safe, happy and learning.

Thank you, as always, for your support.

With kind regards,

P Grice
Headteacher