Dear parent(s)/carer(s),

I hope that you have been able to enjoy some time of rest over the holiday period, these are often busy times for families and the current situation of changing landscapes has only added to this. I do hope that you have enjoyed time as a family together and that you have managed to stay safe above all else.

As we prepare to return to school, I would like to make you aware of the current government guidance in relation to secondary schools. On the 17th December the Department for Education published this statement below:

*Schools with secondary-age pupils are encouraged to prepare for a phased start back to planned on-site provision in the first week of term to allow for these pupils to be tested ahead of normal schooling resuming.*

*This should involve:*

* *full-time on-site provision from the first day of term for all vulnerable children, the children of critical workers and pupils in exam year groups (primarily years 11 and 13)*
* *as many secondary-age pupils and staff as possible being offered 2 lateral flow device tests, starting in the week commencing 4 January, prioritising staff, vulnerable children, the children of critical workers and pupils in years 11 and 13*
* *remote education being provided for all other pupils when they are at home, and in line with* [*local tier restrictions*](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know)
* *all pupils back in school for face-to-face education on 11th January*

In light of the above, it is important to stress that **the term starts for us on Wednesday 6th January ‘21** (following our two planned inset days on Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th) **for ALL children**. However the experience of this will vary depending on their age as follows:

1. If your child is in **Year 11**, then they should attend school as normal in person on Wednesday 6th January**.** They will have **face to face lessons that week as normal**.
2. If your child is in **Years 7, 8, 9 or 10**, then they **should NOT attend school as planned on 6th January and instead will be provided with online learning remotely**. This will be delivered through Microsoft Teams and your child has had training on this. They will follow their normal school day for all timetabled lessons. A link to Teams is also on the home page of our school website in the top right. We will send out guidance on this again nearer the time so please do not worry and you can call us from the 4th if your child is struggling with this as staff will be on site. They are back in school for face to face lessons from 11th January.
3. **If you are an essential worker or your child attended school during the national lockdown due to their specific needs, they are welcome to attend in person from 6th January ’21 regardless of year group**. If this applies to you and your child will be attending please inform school by emailing the Bluecoat Wollaton office email [office@bluecoatwollaton.co.uk](mailto:office@bluecoatwollaton.co.uk) Please mark this for the attention of Jane Bland our Academy Manager and let us know the following information by midday on the 4th January please:

* The name of your child
* Their Year group

We hope that **all students will return to school on Monday 11th January ‘21** **for face to face teaching**, however, we await full guidance on this and cannot say for sure at this stage. We continue to follow media coverage and if this situation changes we will inform you. The government are set to update return to school information as early as tomorrow so this may all change. However, in the interests of transparency and helping you to prepare childcare etc. we thought best to notify you now on current plans and how they will impact you and adapt as needed when/if things change. I hope that you can see we are doing our very best to respond to ever changing parameters and be open with you all.

Finally, you may have heard that we have been advised to prepare to provide **Covid tests** **(lateral Flow tests)** in school for students and staff, as per government guidelines. We will send more information including how you consent to this in the first week back. This letter will come to you on Monday the 4th January as we know more.

Thank you once again for your continued support as we strive to ensure your child’s education is without compromise and they remain safe,

Yours faithfully,



Principal,

Bluecoat Wollaton Academy