Dear parent(s)/carer(s),

Apologies for having to contact you again on this topic since my letter yesterday but following the initial announcements on the 17th December from the Department for Education and the subsequent announcement yesterday, I have had to amend the plans with later return dates. These are in line with all of the latest government announcements and are updated below. Please use this and ignore the previous letter.

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 but this is now online for all from that date**. However, the experience of this will vary depending on their age as follows after this date:

1. If your child is in **Year 11**, then they should attend school as normal in person on **Monday 11th 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 **18th 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 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

The current guidance to schools is that **all students will return to school on Monday 18th January ‘21** **for face to face teaching**, however, we do wish to point out that the government have not ruled out further changes if national measures do not improve infection rates. Like you, we will watch and await full guidance on this and cannot say for sure at this stage what this may mean. We continue to follow media coverage and if this situation changes we will inform you. To reiterate again, 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 *from* 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