

02/01/2021

Dear parent/carer,

Firstly, could I wish a happy, safe and prosperous New Year to you and all your loved ones. I do not think anyone will have been sad to see the back of the year 2020.

As you have no doubt seen in the news, there have been amendments to our plans to start the spring term in January. We are working on the current guidance, but if there are any new changes, we'll update you. In basic terms our initial plans have been delayed by a week. My intention is to outline the new plans as clearly as possible below;

Key Information

Tuesday 5th January. Work will be set for all Year 11 and 13 students on EDMODO.

Monday 11th January. Years 11 and 13 return to school to start face-to-face teaching, at the normal time, a week later than initially planned.

Monday 11th January. Work will be set for all students on EDMODO.

Monday 18th January. All other year groups return to school to start face-to-face teaching, at the normal time, again a week later than planned.

Provision will be put in place for any vulnerable or keyworker students where other provision isn't viable. This would start on Tuesday 5th January from 9am to 2pm and students would report to reception. Face masks, normal school equipment, school uniform and packed lunches would be required. If this is something you are interested in, then please contact reception or admin@westfield.academy, to confirm suitability.

One of the key reasons for the delayed start is to put in place the Governments model for "rapid, asymptomatic testing" in schools. Our intention is to get this in place during the week beginning Monday 4th January, with all staff tested before any students return. We would then start to test students as they return beginning with Years 11 & 13. I will write to you in greater detail regarding this, nearer the time. We will require permission from parents and carers for students to complete

the tests. This testing is designed to tackle asymptomatic cases. If successful, this should allow us to reduce the number of staff or students who we send home to self-isolate as well as tackling any staff or students who are positive but have no symptoms. This is important as moving into January the expectation is still that years 11 and 13 will sit their external exams in June.

We have a number of ICT devices – Chromebooks/HP Streams which we will be distributing to families on Free School Meals. Contact will be made to distribute these during the week beginning 4th January.

Where any Year 13 students were expecting to sit Level 3 BTEC exams, these will continue unless guidance changes. Mr Riaz and Ms Porter will confirm with those individuals involved.

Despite this news I think we are all looking forward to a more positive spring and a happier 2021 overall.

Best wishes

Tim Body
Headteacher