18 December 2020

Our Ref: SW/KS

Dear Parent/Carer

You will probably have seen on the news the Government’s latest plan to stagger the return to school for students in January 2021? This was officially announced yesterday evening and so I’d like to take this opportunity to confirm arrangements for students returning to KJI in the New Year.

All students in Year 11-13 will return as normal on Monday 4th January. Nothing will change for these students and they will access their full education in school. **For students in Years 7-10 their education will be accessed remotely from home in most instances.** Staff will combine live lessons via Google Meet and recorded lessons with appropriate work set for students to complete. This is not optional, and students are expected to access all learning at the times indicated on their timetable and attend throughout the Academy day. Work should be submitted to staff via Google Classrooms on the same day that it is set, and students now have a clear understanding of how to do this as we have been using this platform since our return in September. We are in the envious position of all students having access to Chromebooks, and these should be used by all students.

The Academy will be open for the children of Critical Workers and for those identified by the Local Authority as vulnerable students. These students will be able to access the same remote learning as the rest of their class, with the only difference being that they will do so in school where bubbles will be maintained and students will be supervised by staff, although these will not be subject specialists. **I would request that children of Critical Workers only access the Academy if there is no other option available to you.** Prior to the summer we were able to accommodate these children all together in one class, however now we need to maintain Covid Secure Bubbles. This will result in the need for more staff to supervise groups at the same time that these staff will be teaching Live Lessons and supporting students who are remote learning from home. I’m sure you appreciate the strain that this will put on staff who are already dealing with an unprecedented situation, and understand my request for students in Year 7-10 to work from home wherever they can.

If you are a Critical Worker, and have no other option but to send your child into school during this week, then please contact the Academy by text before Christmas to let us know so we can arrange staffing and transport where appropriate. We will contact all students identified as vulnerable to discuss arrangements with them.
Children who are eligible for Free School Meals can be supported through food parcels provided by our kitchen staff. If this applies to your child then please contact the Academy and we will arrange this in the New Year when kitchen staff return.

The other part of the Government announcement yesterday suggested mass testing of students and staff in schools. Unfortunately, at this point in time further information on this has not been sent to schools, and so I can’t provide you with anything concrete. The suggestion is that these will be Lateral Flow Tests (LFT’s) which will record a result in less than 1 hour, and that students will need two tests, three days apart. If a positive test is recorded then students will need a further PCR test which is to be arranged by parents. I hope that further guidance will be provided in the next few days which I will communicate with you when I am clear on how it will affect our students.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support this term and would also like to wish every one of you a very Merry Christmas. Let’s hope that 2021 is an improvement on this year.

Yours faithfully

S Whitehead

Mr S Whitehead
Deputy Headteacher
Acting Headteacher from January 2021