



31 December 2020

Our Ref: SW/KS

Dear Parent / Carer

In my letter to you on 18<sup>th</sup> December I said that I would update you when the Government had communicated more information on the program of mass asymptomatic testing in secondary schools which is due to start in January. This testing will obviously go ahead, but following the Government announcement yesterday I need to contact you to update you on the revised plan for staggered opening in January. I have summarised these changes below:

- **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January** – The Academy will be **closed for 1 week to all students** except the children of critical workers and those students identified as vulnerable by the Local Authority. **Sixth Form students who have external exams will be able to access the Academy for their exams only.**
- **Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January** – The Academy will be open for children of critical workers, those students identified as vulnerable by the Local Authority and Year 11 – 13 students to attend. **All other Year groups should remain at home.**
- **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January** – **All students** should return to the Academy for face to face teaching.

Where students are not attending school, the expectation is that they will undertake remote learning from home following the timings of their normal school day. Teachers will provide a range of lessons through your child's Google Classroom which they should access through their Chromebook or other appropriate technology. **Students will be expected to register each morning via a Google classroom so that we can monitor engagement in this remote learning. Where students do not register, then Academy staff will be in touch to support with any issues.**

Where students as classed as vulnerable, or where parents are critical workers and have requested that their child access learning in school, they will need to bring their Chromebook to school and will undertake remote learning for their normal timetable under the supervision of Academy staff. Students will maintain Year Group Bubbles whilst they are in school. Uniform is required, and facemasks must be worn outside classrooms.

We will use the first week of term to set up for mass testing, and will start this testing with Year 11 and 13 students on 11<sup>th</sup> January. Our aim is to roll this out to all staff and students over the following 2 weeks once training has been made available to us.

Headteacher: **Mr N Grievson BA NPQH**

Academy Trust registered company name trading as: **King James I Academy, Bishop Auckland**

Registered Office Address: **South Church Road, Bishop Auckland. County Durham DL14 7JZ**

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You will shortly receive another letter from me with information on this testing process as well as an electronic consent form for you to return. **Please return this consent form by Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January** so that we can prepare to begin mass testing the following week. Please note that this testing is only for asymptomatic carriers. If a student displays any of the recognised symptoms of Covid-19, then please keep them at home, arrange for a PCR test in the normal way and inform the Academy at the earliest opportunity.

Thank you for your help, understanding and support with this matter and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully

Simon Whitehead  
Deputy Headteacher  
(Acting Headteacher from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021)



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