



## Students returning to school in January Years 7,8,9,10

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I hope you all managed to have a peaceful and happy Christmas!

I am sure you are aware of the announcements that were made by the Government yesterday regarding schools reopening in January. I am sorry to be interrupting your Christmas holiday with this letter but want to try and clarify arrangements and also reassure you that we will, as always, do our best to keep our students healthy and safe whilst at the same time provide a good quality of education and support for our students who are due to take exams this year.

Set out below is our preliminary plan for the next few weeks – of course these are subject to change pending further announcements.

### **Week Beginning 4<sup>th</sup> January:**

#### **1. Children of Key Workers**

The school will be open from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January from 9:00am – 14:30 (Monday to Friday) for children of key workers. This is by prior arrangement only. If this provision is needed you must email me by 15:00 Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December with full details including, full name, year group, dates the provision is needed. The following expectations for students using this provision will need to be followed:

- Please can parents try and organise for students to have a Covid test that registers a negative result.
- Students will need to be in full school uniform.
- Students will need to bring a packed lunch and refreshments with them – we will provide a basic lunch for students of key workers whilst accessing this provision which is optional.
- Students will be completing online work.
- Students must sign in at reception, have their temperature taken and wash their hands and hand sanitise

#### **2. Years 7, 8, 9 and 10**

Students should enjoy more time with their families, there is no requirement for students to be completing school work. If students would like to do some study we would recommend they do some reading for pleasure (the newspaper or any reading books would be helpful) and do some tasks using Hegarty Maths.

**Please take time to check you are able to access the SIMS app in advance and contact Mrs Land if there are any problems: [niamh.land@aylesford.kent.sch.uk](mailto:niamh.land@aylesford.kent.sch.uk)**

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## Week Beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January:

**1. School will be open for children of Key Workers – as above.**

**2. Year 11, 12 and 13 will be expected to attend school.**

- Students will be in school from 8:30 – 15:00pm.
- If possible it would be useful for students in these year groups to have had a Covid test and registered a negative result in advance of the 11<sup>th</sup> January. Students should bring confirmation with them if this has been possible. As a school we will endeavour to do our own testing of students as per government guidance pending logistical arrangements. Students should come to school whether tested or not.
- Students must be in full school uniform.
- Students must have a face covering which they will be required to wear at all times unless medically exempt.
- On Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January students must line up outside the front entrance at reception. For the rest of the week they will line up in their usual designated areas.
- The Year 11 base area will still be Lords building. The Year 12 and 13 base area will still be the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre
- Students must stay in their base classrooms and will be collected from base rooms by their teacher for lessons.
- Students must not leave their base area without permission.
- All students must follow the three rules of Handwashing/sanitising regularly, wearing a face covering at all times and maintaining social distancing at all times (2 metre if possible).

**3. Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 – Following full timetable online.**

All students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be expected to attend their full timetable of online lessons from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January. You will access these lessons via the SIMS App as you were before Christmas. If there are any issues with online learning please contact Mrs Land:  
niamh.land@aylesford.kent.sch.uk

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**Week Beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January (This is subject to change):**

**All students are expected to attend school.**

Students will be in school as per staggered start and end time arrangements in September.

Year Group	ARRIVAL TIME SLOT	END OF SCHOOL DAY
7	08:15 - 08:30	14:30
8	08:30 - 8:40	14:40
9	08:40-08:50	14:50
10	08:30- 8:40	14:45
11	08:15 - 08:30	15:00
Year 12 and 13	08:15-08:30	14:45 (If they have study time Period 5 we will allow them to leave at lunchtime to study at home)

- If possible it would be useful for students in these year groups to have had a Covid test and registered a negative result in advance of the 11<sup>th</sup> January. Students should bring confirmation with them if this has been possible. As a school we will endeavour to do our own testing of students as per government guidance pending logistical arrangements. Students should come to school whether tested or not.
- Students must be in full school uniform.
- Students must have a face covering which they will be required to wear at all times unless medically exempt.
- On Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January students must line up outside the front entrance at reception. For the rest of the week they will line up in their usual designated areas.
- The base areas are as follows:
  - Year 7 – Twickenham Building (Upstairs)
  - Year 8 – Twickenham Building (Upstairs)
  - Year 9 – Wimbledon Building
  - Year 10 - Lords Building (Upstairs)
  - Year 11- Lords Building (Downstairs)
  - Year 12 and 13 (6<sup>th</sup> Form Centre)
- Students must stay in their base classrooms and will be collected from base rooms by their teacher for lessons.
- Students must not leave their base area without permission.
- All students must follow the three rules of Handwashing/sanitising regularly, wearing a face covering at all times and maintaining social distancing at all times (2 metre if possible).

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**Please do not send your child to school if they are at all unwell – this includes Covid symptoms, headaches, sickness or cold and flu like symptoms.**

## **Covid Testing in Schools:**

During this staggered start to the year the school will attempt to set up a mass Covid-19 testing facility in school. If this is possible and feasible, we will be able to offer testing in January. The guidance from government is unclear.

Once this is set-up we will be looking to test as many students as is possible in order to keep students safe and isolate any positive cases with minimum disruption to others. This will involve a series of lateral flow tests and more information will be provided as well as requests for consent – we hope to have more information to you by the end of next week.

As you will imagine this is a huge undertaking and I cannot guarantee if and when this will be up and running. Any testing will be **optional** and parental consent **will** be required before any test can be administered.

No one will be excluded from attending school if they do not take a test. Testing **will not** be up and running next week due to the considerable planning and training required.

Our high levels of safety and hygiene procedures will remain in place alongside the strict bubbles and other precautionary measures to keep the school as safe as possible.

Due to the large number of people required to undertake training and delivery of mass testing in schools we are asking for volunteers from our school community and will be asking anyone who is willing and able to help us do this to contact us in the first week back to discuss further. It is already clear that we will not be able to do this without this support as teaching staff will be teaching fully from day one, we simply won't have capacity without voluntary help. If you are able to help with this please email me: [Tanya.kelvie@aylesford.kent.sch.uk](mailto:Tanya.kelvie@aylesford.kent.sch.uk)

Thank you to those of you who have volunteered so far – I will be in contact with you soon.

## **Informing us of positive tests**

**Please continue to inform us if your child tests positive after 4<sup>th</sup> January for Covid 19 by email, stating full name, symptoms, date of test and please send us confirmation of the positive test.**

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## Happy New Year!

It would be easy to reflect on 2020 as not a good year and it has certainly been challenging and I am sorry for those of you who have lost loved ones or if you have been ill yourselves but it is really important to reflect on the positives and achievements that have been made this year of which I am sure there are many. I know as a school community we have shown great character and will continue to do so in 2021!

I sincerely hope 2021 brings all of you good health, wealth, peace and happiness and can't wait to see our students in the new year!

Yours Sincerely,

Miss Kelvie  
Headteacher – Aylesford School

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