

SAINT NICHOLAS SCHOOL

Hobbs Cross Road
Old Harlow
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Headmaster: Mr A D Petty BA MSc PGCE FRSA

18th December 2020

Dear Parents,

I am writing following the government's announcement yesterday afternoon about the phased return of secondary schools in January.

On the basis of Government guidance as it stands today, Pre-School, all Lower School year groups (Reception to Year 5) and Year 11 will return to school, as planned, on Tuesday 5th January at the same times as last term. The Year 11 GCSE mock examinations will also continue as planned.

The other year groups in the Middle and Upper Schools (Years 6 – 10) will learn remotely from Tuesday 5th January until Friday 8th January inclusive and will return to the School site on Monday 11th January. The pupils in Years 6 – 10 will need to log on for registration at 8.45am on Tuesday 5th January and then they will follow the normal timetable using Microsoft Teams for the four days of that week.

On Monday 11th January, Years 9 and 10 should arrive at 8.30am and Years 6, 7 and 8, at 10am. Thereafter the arrival and collection times and arrangements will be the same as for last term

If there are any parents who need to use key worker provision as they did earlier in the year, please complete the following form by Saturday 2nd January at 11am: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ItEGVhxJhEiuYINmilf1Rj6ticSiOftPgveXvBYardJURUNWQ1RDUIQxRzZTVIJKMEtQR1NGVjIRSi4u>

You may have seen in the media that COVID-19 testing will be available on site at secondary schools from January. We as a school have only just been made aware of this and a significant amount of preparation will be required before we could implement a testing regime. Further, we have not yet received any of the equipment or training necessary for this testing to take place. Therefore, the current approach to contact tracing and self-isolation for close contacts will continue for the foreseeable future. We will write to you with further information, once we have more details, in the new year. Until then you can continue to book tests via the following link: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test> and we would strongly recommend that all children are tested before returning.

Thank you for your continued support.

We will, of course, keep you updated with any further information and developments.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,

A D Petty
Headmaster