



ENJOY, ASPIRE, ACHIEVE

18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear parents,

On Tuesday, the first patient in the world, Margaret Keenan from Coventry, received the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine against Covid-19. Let us hope that this vaccination marks the beginning of a new phase in our fight against the virus and we can now look forward to 2021 with increased optimism.

This year has been one of the most challenging years our country has faced and it has certainly been a year like no other in education. Educational settings have had to endure extended periods of closures, staff and pupils have had to find new ways of working and pupils have missed contact with their social groups.

Despite these challenges, we still have much to be thankful for.

### **Mock Examinations**

Year 11 mock examinations will begin on **Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January**. Staff will deliver a supported revision programme during the preceding weeks which will also include guided mocks. Guided mocks are a detailed 'walk through' of each examination paper and will help to clarify the structure of the papers, assessment objectives and examination techniques.

Mock examinations will be delivered in controlled conditions and will provide pupils with a better idea of what to expect in the summer examinations.

### **Uniform**

Please ensure that pupils are in their correct uniform on their return to the centre. This constitutes black skirt / trousers, white shirt and black/dark coloured jumper (no logos). Please also ensure that pupils have a warm winter coat and suitable outdoor footwear for the 'Mile a Day' walks.

### **Spring Term**

Following DfE guidelines, all pupils will return to the centre on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. There will be no staggered start to the term.

### **Key Dates:**

Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January

Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January – Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 19<sup>th</sup> February

Teacher Training Day

Start of Spring Term

Guided Mocks

Mock Examinations

Half-Term

## **COVID-19**

### **What to do if your child develops symptoms of COVID 19**

If your child develops symptoms of COVID-19, they should remain at home for at least 10 days from the date when their symptoms appeared.

While they are waiting for a test result or if they have a positive test result, all other household members who remain well must stay at home and not leave the house for 10 days. If they receive a negative test result, household members can stop self-isolating.

The 10-day period starts from the day when the first person in the house became ill. Household members should not go to work, school or public areas and exercise should be taken within the home.

Household members staying at home for 10 days will greatly reduce the overall amount of infection the household could pass on to others in the community. If you are able, move any vulnerable individuals (such as the elderly and those with underlying health conditions) out of your home to stay with friends or family for the duration of the home isolation period.

### **Symptoms**

The most common symptoms of coronavirus (COVID-19) are:

- new continuous cough and/or
- high temperature
- a loss of, or change in, normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia)

For most people, coronavirus (COVID-19) will be a mild illness. If your child or anyone in the household does develop symptoms, you can seek advice from NHS 111 at:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/> or by phoning 111.

### **How to stop COVID-19 spreading**

There are things you can do to help reduce the risk of you and anyone you live with becoming ill with COVID-19.

Do:

- wash your hands with soap and water often – do this for at least 20 seconds
- use hand sanitiser gel if soap and water are not available
- wash your hands as soon as you get home
- cover your mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve (not your hands) when you cough or sneeze
- put used tissues in the bin immediately and wash your hands afterwards

Further Information is available at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-educational-settings-about-covid-19>