

19th December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Urgent update to start of term / testing

Wexham School agrees that testing is a good way forward, in order to keep our students and staff safe and to ensure maximum attendance at school. However, the very late announcement and lack of exact details about the scheme is proving difficult to have any certainty about the start of term.

Many details that have currently appeared in the media are incorrect. In the interest of transparency I feel it important to share exactly what we do or do not know at this stage.

- The government intends to test students **from** the 4th January, this does not necessarily mean that testing will take place during the first week back, although obviously that is the intention for students in school.
- Testing for both students and staff is **optional**. Students **MUST** have consent from parents. Teachers do not have to take the test unless they want to and I expect many will.
- We do not know who will administer tests as this keeps changing.
- We do not know **how** or **when** these tests will arrive in school.
- We do not know where these tests will take place. Following the NHS guidance we have received the only place we have identified which meets the criteria is our School Canteen, clearly this would not be appropriate and as so many schools will be similar I expect guidance to change.

The Department for Education has now announced schools can have an additional Staff Only Day (INSET) on 4th January. This is to prepare for testing but will also help us to organise the rest of the week and deal with any other advice that materialises much nearer the time.

Therefore the following arrangements (as of Saturday 19th December) will be in place, these may be subject to change.

4th January

This is now a staff only day. All students must remain at home.

5th – 8th January

Years 11 and 13 to start school.

Any student **in any year group** that is classified as vulnerable or has an EHC plan should also start school on this date. We will contact these parents and students on Monday 4th January. Parents who are keyworkers and would like their child to attend school for this week should telephone the main school office on Monday 4th January or email post@wexham.slough.sch.uk. All other students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 must stay at home and continue with their learning remotely.

11th January

All students return to school as normal.

Please check our website, under the news section, before the 4th January where further details will appear. Remember that the government may make further changes to what has been announced today.

All the current rules and regulations, such as facemasks, staggered end to the day etc. will remain in place in January.

I wish you all a very peaceful and relaxing holiday period. Please keep safe.

Yours sincerely



Mr Lawrence Smith
Headteacher