



Bluecoat Beechdale
Academy

Belong, Believe, Achieve

Friday 31st December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer(s),

I hope that you have been able to enjoy the Christmas holidays. These are often busy times for families and the current situation of changing landscapes has only added to this. I hope that you have enjoyed time as a family together, and that you have managed to stay safe above all else. As we prepare to return to school, I would like to make you aware of the changes to the government guidance in relation to secondary schools which were updated on Wednesday 30th December.

Please note, we now have two inset days at the start of term. **Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th January are now both inset days.** This is to allow for planning regarding the changes announced, as well as to prepare for testing within the Academy. **All students will be taught from Wednesday 6th January**, however the experience of this will vary depending on their age as follows:

If you are an essential worker or your child attended school during the national lockdown due to their specific needs, they are welcome to attend in person from 6th January '21 regardless of year group. Hopefully you completed our most recent survey which when completed would've identified if your child was eligible. We shall be in contact in the New Year to share more details for the provision. If your circumstances have changed and you need to re-complete our survey please inform the Academy by emailing - office@bluecoatbeechdale.co.uk and we can send this back out to you.

All year groups will be taught online from Wednesday 6th January. These will be delivered through Microsoft Teams and your child has had training on this. They will follow their normal school day for all timetabled lessons.

If your child is in **Year 11**, then they return to school for face to face lesson from Monday 11th January, with all other year groups continuing to be taught online.

If your child is in **Years 7, 8, 9 or 10**, then they should **NOT attend school until Monday 18th January.**

Finally, you may have heard that we have been advised to prepare to provide **Covid tests (lateral Flow tests)** in school for students and staff, as per government guidelines. We will send more information including how you consent to this in the first week back. This letter will come to you on Monday the 4th January as we know more.

Thank you once again for your continued support as we strive to ensure your child's education is without compromise and they remain safe,

Yours faithfully,

Mrs S Bailey
Principal