

Dear Families

Update regarding the return to school in January 2021 following latest Government Guidance (updated on Wednesday 30th December).

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous New Year.

As you will have seen in the national media, **the Government has amended its planning for the staggered start to the spring term for secondary school students.** This slight delay to the start of the new school term is to enable schools to set up for the optional 'rapid testing'. It is the Government's aim that this rapid testing in schools, combined with a delayed return to school sites, will aim to reduce the risk of the spread of Coronavirus (Covid-19).

These tests will help identify asymptomatic cases - which make up a third of all cases - thus limiting the spread of the virus. Testing, along with other infection prevention and control measures such as social distancing, regularly sanitizing and washing your hands, and wearing a face covering in busy areas can ensure students are given the best chance of face-to-face education.

As previously stated in our end of term letter, Monday 4th January will be a teacher training day. The government have then delayed the return to secondary school for other year groups. Our Batley Multi Academy Trust primary schools open as originally planned.

The arrangements for Batley Multi Academy Trust secondary schools are as follows:

- **Tuesday 5th January** - we will reopen for **face-to-face learning for children of critical workers and our most vulnerable students.** All other students should be engaged in remote learning when not in school, checking their emails from 8.30 am and following their normal timetabled lessons. Students can access remote learning from a range of devices, such as smart phones, tablets, laptops and personal computers. If your daughter does not have access to any device, please email data@batleygirls.co.uk. Our number one priority is always to keep everyone in our learning community safe.
- **Monday 11th January** - we will re-open for **face-to-face learning for Years 10, 11 and 13. We will also continue with face-to-face learning for children of critical workers and our most vulnerable students.** A small number of students in Year 12 have exams during this week and they will be invited in to sit these. More details will follow.
- **Monday 18th January** - we will reopen for face-to-face learning for all students in all year groups.

We will write to you separately with the details of the rapid testing programme and the consent forms that are required to be completed should you choose for your daughter to take part in this programme.

If you have any further questions or queries then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Once again we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support for your daughter's education through the challenging times of this global pandemic.

Yours faithfully,

Julie Haigh and David Cooper