



**ST HILDA'S**  
CE HIGH SCHOOL

WISDOM  
HOPE  
COMMUNITY  
DIGNITY  
EQUALITY

22 December 2020

Dear parent/carers

### CHANGES TO RETURN DATES – JANUARY 2021

Late on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December we were informed that secondary schools and colleges will operate a staggered return after Christmas. This means that all non-exam groups (Years 7 to 9) will have online learning from home until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. Years 7 to 9 will not return to school as planned on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. Their first day of term will be Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021. We will share the online learning activities with students on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January and this will begin on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. We will continue to provide pastoral support to those learning from home.

The Government wants us to begin mass testing in school in the New Year. As a school you know that we fully supported both mass testings for covid-19 within school, but we are unable to make the necessary arrangements for this to happen without thorough guidance from the Government and time to plan. The Government has requested that we take Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January as an additional INSET day to plan the mass testing programme and ensure that online learning is in place for those not returning until Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. This means that Years 10 to 13 will return on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January at the usual time. We also have a number of external BTEC examinations for Years 12 and 13 during the first week of January onwards. These will go ahead as planned.

Vulnerable children and children of critical workers will be able to attend from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. The learning for our vulnerable students and those of critical workers will be exactly the same as those not in school. They will be supervised to complete the online learning set by teachers. The definition of critical worker is outlined on the form. Please click on the following link to check your eligibility and to book a place for your child, if needed.

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gslUYD0XnE2CnSSqmUfkEOh\\_iXsM3hxEse5H1gov01UMkNIVzYwS1pPOERUTEQxN1daN0FVSE5STS4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gslUYD0XnE2CnSSqmUfkEOh_iXsM3hxEse5H1gov01UMkNIVzYwS1pPOERUTEQxN1daN0FVSE5STS4u)

For those in receipt of free school meals, and who are completing home learning from January 5<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>, we will contact you regarding vouchers for that week.

Please forgive the lateness of this letter and information. I appreciate the inconvenience it may cause by changing return dates in January. We received our information at very short notice.

Headteacher  
**Mrs J Code**  
BA (Hons), NPQH, FCCT

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I forwarded you a letter from Steve Reddy who has asked that we are all tested before returning to school, whether that is Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> or Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. If you can, please do so. Our staff have been asked to do the same.

YEAR GROUP	FIRST DAY IN SCHOOL
YEAR 7	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> January*
YEAR 8	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> January*
YEAR 9	Monday 11 <sup>th</sup> January*
YEAR 10	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January
YEAR 11	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January
YEAR 12	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January
YEAR 13	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January
	* unless vulnerable or critical worker child

This is an ever-changing situation, so thank you for your patience. I will update you if anything changes, but I wish you all a peaceful Christmas with a chance to have a break after a difficult year. We are praying that 2021 is a better year for us all.

Yours,



Jo Code  
Headteacher