



Wednesday 23rd December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are well and enjoying a relaxing, if somewhat different, Christmas season.

Since I last wrote, the Government have announced a staggered return to the school building for secondary age students. I am conscious that this may change again before January, but currently we are expecting the following:-

- All Year 11 students return at the normal time on Tuesday 5th January
- Vocational examinations will go ahead as planned
- Students in Years 7-10 will return to remote learning at home via Google Classroom at the normal time on Tuesday 5th January
- Students who are deemed to be 'vulnerable' should return to school on the 5th January at the usual time (see details from the Department for Education below)
- Students whose parents are 'critical workers' can return to school on the 5th January at the usual time (see details from the Department for Education below)

If these arrangements change before January, I will write again to update you.

In the meantime, we are still awaiting the detailed guidance for in-school testing which was part of the rationale for this staggered return. Schools are not required to carry out in-school testing, but the staggered return is mandatory. Once we have the full details of how in-school testing is expected to operate, we will: look at the logistics; work out if this is possible at Lealands, and begin detailed planning if appropriate. Once we have more details, we will share our approach with you.

In the meantime, I would encourage you to ensure your child is tested at one of the rapid test centres in Luton prior to their return to school so that we can try to minimise the risk of spreading the virus in school and try to avoid sending more student contacts home to isolate.

If you believe that you are a critical worker (see list below) and your child cannot remain at home for remote education, please email [admin@lealands.luton.sch.uk](mailto:admin@lealands.luton.sch.uk) with your child's name, year group and your occupation so that we can be prepared to welcome them on the 5th January. If you are not sure if your child fits the 'vulnerable' category, please email [admin@lealands.luton.sch.uk](mailto:admin@lealands.luton.sch.uk) and we will contact you to confirm or not prior to the 5th January.

Whilst this is the current situation, and I have delayed writing to you about this, whilst awaiting the detailed guidance and anticipating further changes, please be aware that this situation may change prior to our return in January.

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely,



John Burridge  
Headteacher

### **Definitions of 'critical workers' and 'vulnerable pupils'**

Critical workers are those who work in:

- Health and social care
- Education and childcare
- Key public services (including the justice system, religious staff, charities delivering key frontline services, those responsible for the management of the deceased, and journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting)
- Local and national government (those who are involved in delivering the coronavirus response or essential public services)
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

Vulnerable pupils are those who:

- Are assessed as being in need, including those with a child in need plan or child protection plan
- Are looked after by the local authority
- Have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- Have been assessed as otherwise vulnerable by the school or LA, including children who:
  - Are on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services
  - Are adopted
  - Are at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
  - Are living in temporary accommodation
  - Are young carers
  - May have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)

If you're not sure if you or your child fall under these definitions, please email the school at [admin@lealands.luton.sch.uk](mailto:admin@lealands.luton.sch.uk).