

**Harland Way,
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18 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I feel I must apologise for this late notification to you of the change to our planned return in the new spring term in January. Unfortunately, we are being directed, at late notice by the Government, to return our young people on a phased basis for the week commencing Monday 4 January 2021. In line with that directive, the following arrangements will be in place for the start of the term.

On Tuesday 5th January 2021, Year 10, 11 and 13 students, who will sit external examinations this year, will return to school as arranged. All other year groups will access blended learning at home and should not physically attend school.

If your child requires a place at school because the sole parent/carer is or both parents/carers are key workers, please let the school know so that we can plan accordingly by completing and emailing to us the attached proforma, no later than 12pm on Monday 4 January 2021.

On Monday 11 January 2021, all students will return to school.

I do appreciate that late notice changes may cause families great difficulty, but I am communicating this to you at the earliest possible opportunity.

You may also have seen the widely reported proposed mass testing of staff and students in school from 4th January. Though this is a voluntary test for all groups, I am sure you will appreciate that an operation of this size requires careful planning. To reassure you at this time, we will not be instigating Lateral Flow Testing in school from 4 January. We will write to you again when the guidance is clearer about the expectations to be placed on schools.

Please be mindful that when we return in January, the usual expectations will be in place in terms of the wearing of face-coverings, staying in 'bubbles', regularly washing and sanitising hands, maintaining social distancing, wearing the correct school uniform, including polishable shoes, PE kit and school equipment.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a peaceful Christmas and thank you for your continued support of the school's work.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Loz Wilson'.

Loz Wilson
Headteacher

