

The Harefield Academy

Achievement through Active Learning

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31st December 2020

Update to the arrangements for the start of the Spring Term 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I apologise for contacting you during the Christmas break but am sure you will be aware of further national developments impacting the return of students to schools in January.

The start of term has been delayed for 2 reasons:

- 1) To support the national endeavour to cut transmission rates of Covid-19, particularly amongst young people who are more likely to carry the virus asymptotically.
- 2) To support schools in setting up mass testing capacity to support the safe return of all students.

Please see below a summary of the new expectations:

4th January – This remains an INSET day and there will be no school for any students.

5th January – This is the first day of term but the only students in school will be those who qualify as the children of critical workers or who meet the vulnerability criteria as set out by the government. Please see [here](#) for a link to the government guidelines outlining the threshold. Please also ensure you have completed the google survey sent out before Christmas [here](#) to support us in identifying which students are eligible. You will be contacted on Monday 4th January individually to confirm whether your child satisfies the criteria and will be able to attend school on 5th January.

- **Year 12 and 13 BTEC sport students** will be expected in for their examinations as normal on the **6th, 13th and 15th January 2021**.
- All other students should not attend from 5th – 8th January but will have access to remote education.
- For this first week, students in **Years 7 – 10 and year 12** will have work provided on Google Classroom.
- Students in **Years 11 and 13** will have a blended approach using Google classroom and Google meet.

11th January – At this time we are expecting the return of Year 11 and 13 for face-to-face teaching. All other year groups will continue remote education until 15th January which will involve the start of google meet lessons for all year groups working from home.

18th January – At this time we are expecting the full return of all students to school from this date.

We are cautious that the return dates to face to face teaching may be subject to change as they are contingent on the government's monitoring of rates of infection, notably as we are in a high-risk area. We will be planning for a return on the dates outlined but please look out for continued updates in advance of each date.

Mrs Timmins will contact all parents on 4th January with further details of remote education. The expectations from the government surrounding this have been modified since our last communication so more details will follow.

I am sure many of you will wish to know much more about the mass testing programme. We are only starting to get details of this emerging now and are expecting further guidance, as well as delivery of resources, in the coming days. We will of course ensure that students are only invited in for testing once we are satisfied that we have fully assessed and responded to all risks and are comfortable that we have a secure, safe, and robust programme in place with suitably trained staff to oversee. Please be reassured that as our plans are refined, we will continue to communicate with you and respond to any queries you may have.

I hope very much that you have all remained healthy and well over the Christmas break and may I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tash', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tash Hurtado, Headteacher