



Dear Parents and Guardians

Following the Government announcement on schools yesterday afternoon, I am writing to confirm arrangements for the first two weeks of the Spring Term. Further details will be confirmed as soon as we have them.

As you are probably aware, the rising rates of coronavirus infection have led the Government to delay the return to face-to-face teaching in secondary schools. Therefore, a staggered return is required, with priority given to the year-groups facing public examinations in the summer (Years 11 and 13) alongside vulnerable students and the children of critical workers. This letter clarifies the return to school.

I have decided to add an **extra day of INSET on Wednesday 6th January 2021** to plan for all students to start remote learning on **Thursday 7th January 2021**. The community classrooms will also be ready for Thursday 7th January 2021.

The students that will return to school on **Thursday 7th January 2021** for the community classrooms are:

- those classed as vulnerable
- those who are without a device or access to the internet at home
- those with parents who are classed as key workers (the full list can be found [here](#))

Please contact your child's/children's Head of Year if your child falls into any of these groups, so that we have an accurate picture of numbers expected for the community classrooms. Please contact our Heads of Year as soon as possible, but by **Tuesday 5th January 2021** at the latest.

Year	Head of Year
7 - Mr Sully	s.sully@arkalexandra.org
8 – Mrs Scott	K.Scott@arkalexandra.org
9 – Mrs Hodgkin	D.Hodgkin@arkalexandra.org
10 – Ms Clark	s.clark@arkalexandra.org
11 – Mrs Deeprise	K.Deeprose@arkalexandra.org

The community classrooms will be made up of students from different year groups, but that grouping will remain consistent for the whole time they are with us until the rest of the school returns.

All other students will start remote learning from the Thursday 7th January 2021. These lessons may be online worksheets for the first couple of days whilst we get the mass Covid testing underway.

Hastings has been designated as a Contingency Framework Area due to the high rates of Covid infections. Therefore, the return to face-to-face schooling is slightly different to other areas:

- **Year 11, 12 and 13 will return to school on Monday 11th January 2021.** In the next week, some provision will be made for students who are taking their BTEC exams. All other year groups will learn remotely this week.
- It is planned that the rest of the school will return to face-to-face schooling on **Monday 18th January 2021**. Please note that the Government is reviewing its rules on 18th January, so this could be subject to change.

Principal: Mr L Collins
Network Associate Principal: Mr J Scafe



Week Beginning Monday 4th January 2021

	Mon 4.1.21	Tues 5.1.21	Wed 6.1.21	Thurs 7.1.21	Fri 8.1.21
Community Classrooms	Staff only for INSET and planning	Staff only for INSET and planning	Staff only for INSET and planning	In school	In school
Sixth Form				Online learning	Online learning
Year 11				Online learning	Online learning
Year 10				Online learning	Online learning
Year 9				Online learning	Online learning
Year 8				Online learning	Online learning
Year 7				Online learning	Online learning

Week Beginning Monday 11th January 2021

	Mon 11.1.21	Tues 12.1.21	Wed 13.1.21	Thurs 14.1.21	Fri 15.1.21
Community Classrooms	In school				
Sixth Form	In school				
Year 11	In school				
Year 10	Online learning				
Year 9	Online learning				
Year 8	Online learning				
Year 7	Online learning				

Over the holidays, we have been working on plans to begin offering coronavirus testing for students and staff in the school. I will keep you updated on these arrangements as further information becomes available. This testing programme will help us identify asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases and reduce possible transmission in school, which will be beneficial.

Please be assured that the tests are administered by the student themselves and not by a member of staff.

The rising rate of infection is naturally of concern to us, and we will be keeping the safety of our community at the heart of all our planning.

Many thanks again for all your support at this difficult time. Once again, I am reminded of the need for flexibility and resilience. I look forward to brighter times in 2021 and wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Liam Collins
Principal, Ark Alexandra Academy