

Our ref JWN/HPE/31

31 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your family are well and have enjoyed the holiday so far, especially with the additional sprinkling of snow!

As you will no doubt be aware, yesterday afternoon the Education Secretary announced additional changes to the reopening of schools next term, delaying the planned start date for the majority of secondary school students while testing processes are put in place.

As such, the arrangements at Astrea Academy Dearne are as follows:

- Vulnerable children and children of key workers will be welcomed back in school as planned on Monday 4 January 2021. **Please note during this phased return all children will start school at 8.30am and finish at 2.45pm, regardless of year group.**
- Students in year 11 will learn remotely from 9am on Monday 4 January 2021 and should return to school on Monday 11 January 2021.
- Students in years 7 to 10 will learn remotely from 9am on Monday 4 January 2021 and should return to school on Monday 18 January.

I want to reassure you that your child's online education will be as close as possible to any normal day in school with the majority of lessons being live-streamed using Microsoft Teams. Practical subjects such as PE, Art, Photography and Drama will be set for students through the Home Learning page on the school's website. We will be closely monitoring attendance and engagement in live streamed lessons and will contact parents if we are concerned that a student is not working effectively, including home visits where necessary.

Astrea Academy Trust is committed to ensuring every student has access to a laptop. If you have not already done so, please either call the school office, message school through the Astrea Parent App, or email [info@astreadearne.org](mailto:info@astreadearne.org) if you would like to borrow a device for this period. We will then be in touch from Monday 4 January 2021 to arrange either a collection time, or to invite your child into school for face-to-face teaching.

### **Times for the online school day**

The online school day will follow the times below. Please note that form-time will be suspended until students return to school and that your child's break and lunchtime could be different from last term.

09.00 – 10.00: Session 1  
10.00 – 11.00: Session 2  
11.00 – 11.15: Break  
11.15 – 12.15: Session 3  
12.15 – 12.45: Lunchtime  
12.45 – 13.45: Session 4  
13.45 – 14.45: Session 5

### **What to do if your child has forgotten their email address, username or password**

All parents and carers will receive a message via the Astrea Parent App on Monday 4 January 2021 with their child's email address, username and password.

### **What to do if your child does not know how to log into Microsoft Teams**

All parents and carers will receive Microsoft Teams guidance sent with their child's email address, username and password details. This guidance is already available on the school website under the tab: Home Learning, along with a clear step by step video guide.

### **What to do if your child cannot access the internet**

If your child cannot access work set online because your household does not have access to the internet, your child may attend as 'educationally vulnerable' alongside children of key workers from Monday 4 January 2021. Once a suitable device and internet access is provided, your child will be expected to remain at home until the wider year group is readmitted to school.

### **Testing**

As we have done since September, we will do everything we can to help keep staff and students safe and to remain in school. Following the guidance, my team and I have already begun to develop plans for testing and will be using the early days of term to fine-tune them. I will be able to share more details in the coming days. Please be assured that parental consent will be required prior to any testing taking place. Students have responded very well to the COVID arrangements we have introduced this year - I am confident they will react maturely to this latest measure.

### **What to do if your child has COVID symptoms**

If your child has any of the COVID symptoms (a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; loss of taste or smell) they must not come into school and you should arrange for them to be tested.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and co-operation during these challenging times, and I wish you and your family a safe and Happy New Year.

Best wishes



Mrs. Joanne Wilson  
Principal

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