



Da Vinci Academy
A L.E.A.D. Academy



Headteacher: Mrs. Katie Roberts
Address: St Andrew's View
Derby DE21 4ET
Telephone: 01332 831515
www.davinciacademy.co.uk
office@davinciacademy.co.uk

Friday 18th December 2020

Dear Parent/ Carer

I am sure that many of you have watched the various announcements from the Department for Education over the last week around the start of term in January 2021 and mass testing for covid-19 in schools. The latest Government announcement came via the media at around 3pm yesterday and on the day before our academy breaks up. As I type, we are still waiting for further official confirmation and guidance on many aspects of how this new system will work.

The Government has said that Primary school pupils, students in exam years and a small number of students from other years will return to school immediately after Christmas, but that other secondary aged pupils will return the following week (Monday 11th January). Our plans were announced to students and staff this morning and are as follows:

ALL students in Years 11, 10 and Success will return to school on Tuesday 5th January as planned.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be taught remotely (following their normal school timetable). Details will be communicated on 4th January and will include a mixture of remote resources and live lessons. This system will be the same that we have been using for students who are self-isolating.

Vulnerable students in Years 7, 8 and 9 - earlier in the year, we carried out an exercise where eligible students were identified and prioritised. If your child is to be offered a place in school from Tuesday 5th January, you will be contacted separately today.

Children of keyworkers – if you are a key worker and need your child to attend school from 5th-8th January, please email keyworker@davinciacademy.co.uk to confirm this. We are more than happy to support your child in school and they will need to attend all four days.

Testing

You may have seen it announced this week that students and teachers will have access to mass testing from January. Specifically, this means that staff will be tested weekly (with results taking 30 minutes) and students who are identified as close contacts of someone testing positive, can be tested daily for 7 consecutive days and remain in school if they test negative. This testing will be optional, and those not consenting, would be subject to the normal 10-day self-isolation.

Da Vinci Academy will confirm its plans and arrangements for mass testing during week commencing 4th January so watch this space! As always, we will do our best to make this new system of testing work





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within the constraints we have. I may be writing to you again in January asking for volunteers from our school community, but it really is too early to be definitive about this.

As you can imagine, we have had little time to respond to these announcements and I therefore thank you in anticipation of your understanding and ongoing support around the short notice nature of this information. We will continue to do our best to provide you with as much detail as we can and as soon as we are provided with government and Trust guidance.

Finally, it remains for me to take another opportunity to wish you a safe, peaceful Christmas and a very happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Katie Roberts
Headteacher

