

31st December 2020

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Head Teacher:
Mr R S Samra B.A., M.A.

Dear Parent/Carer,

We hope that you have had a safe and restful holiday. I am sure that you are aware that yesterday there were further changes set out for the return to school arrangements for secondary schools, following on from the initial guidance issued by the government on 17th December 2020.

I would like to provide you with initial information on the Spring Term return to school and also the introduction of Lateral Flow Device testing in schools for 2021.

Staggered return to the Spring Term

Remote Learning from Tuesday 5th January

All year groups will remain at home for the first week of the Spring Term. Students should expect to broadly follow their normal timetable and should be ready to learn at 8.45am each day. They will receive 'live' lessons on Microsoft Teams which will involve teacher input and time for independent activity. They may also have pre-recorded material to access and opportunities to ask teachers questions, either live via Teams or on email. All activities should be undertaken and, when relevant, work should be submitted online for review by the class teacher. Details of all lessons will be uploaded to Satchel:One and links to 'live' lesson recordings can be accessed after the lesson has been held, if needed.

It is paramount that students have access to their Microsoft Teams accounts and have access to an electronic device, further support with this will be issued before we return. If your child does not have access to Microsoft teams please visit our website for

support: <https://www.southamcollege.com/parents/back-to-school-2021>

Student return from Monday 11th January

Years 11 and 13 will return to in school provision, all other year groups will continue with remote learning for this week.

Students in school will continue to attend their usual lessons and all of the mitigations from the Autumn Term will remain in place e.g. face coverings in communal areas, social distancing where possible, regular hand cleaning, allocated toilets and canteen, classroom ventilation.

Student return from Monday 18th January

It is anticipated that all year groups will return to in school provision from this date.

Critical workers and vulnerable students

Children whose parents are 'critical workers' can attend school from Tuesday 5th January. This is to allow for 'critical workers' to go to their place of work. If you require your child to attend school so that you can carry out a 'critical worker' role please complete the short response form, via the link below, by 11:00am on Monday 4th January.

<https://southam.survey.fm/critical-worker-in-school-provision>

School is also open to students who are vulnerable and who have an EHCP or an allocated social worker. A separate email will be sent to all parent/carers of vulnerable students to confirm the offer of this place in school.

Critical worker and vulnerable students will work in year group bubbles, in a computer room, accessing the same online provision that is offered for remote learning. Students will be supervised by staff to complete this work and canteen facilities will be available.

Students can take their usual mode of transport and will be directed to their classroom as they arrive in school. Full uniform is required (No practical PE lessons are taking place in this fortnight so no PE kit is required) and all normal school expectations apply, as do our normal mitigations such as the wearing of face coverings and hand hygiene.

Examinations

All students with external examinations in the first two weeks of the Spring Term e.g. BTEC and Cambridge National Unit Examinations, will still go ahead as scheduled and students will be required to come into school to sit these official exams. Further details will be sent to the students involved in these examinations, prior to their exam/s.

Internal Year 9 examinations which were due to take place at the start of the Spring Term will now be completed within lessons, when this year group return to school.

The Sixth Form internal examinations which are scheduled to start on Monday 18th January will go ahead as planned.

'Lateral Flow Device' Testing in Schools

In line with the Government requirements, we are currently making arrangements to set up Lateral Flow Device testing in school, to help identify asymptomatic cases. This will enable us to further limit transmission of the virus, supporting the national effort. Testing is voluntary and both staff and students will administer their own test if they take up the offer for testing. We will be sending more details of this testing, with appropriate consent documentation in the week beginning 4th January, once all Government training materials arrive in schools. Students aged 16 and above are able to give consent themselves for this test, parental consent is required for students under the age of 16. Further information on Lateral Flow Device testing in schools is available on the Government website. <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/asymptomatic-testing-in-schools-and-colleges?priority-taxon=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109cce8eae>

We are hugely grateful for the response we have received from the community in volunteering to support this testing process. There will be a trained team of staff and volunteers to supervise and process tests in school and we will look to invite students in for testing as soon as we have this facility set up.

Thank you again for your on-going support, as always please do not hesitate to get in touch with any queries and we will update you with more detail on plans at the start of next week.

Wishing you a peaceful and safe New Year.

Yours sincerely,
Miss Mason

Senior Deputy Headteacher
Southam College