

**The Dorcan Academy**

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Headteacher: Mrs S Bareham MBA GRSM

31 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## **THE DORCAN ACADEMY – COVID 19**

I hope that during a very different Christmas Break, you and your families have been able to keep safe and well. We now know that Swindon has been moved into Tier 4 and there has also been the anticipated announcement that schools are set to experience further delay on opening to all students at the start of January 2021. This is just a brief note to outline the situation as it stands, but there will be more information to follow from the 4<sup>th</sup> January onwards so please keep a look out.

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January** – school will be closed to **all students** for our already pre-planned INSET days and unfortunately, we will no longer be able to have selected Year 11 students in on those days as previously agreed. We are looking at the options for those with an examination on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> who were due in for face to face revision. Further guidance will be issued as soon as we know our capacity.

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January** – school will be open **only** to students of critical workers (prioritising those who accessed school during the previous lockdown) and those classed as vulnerable. The school day will start at the usual staggered start times and will end at 2:50pm. There will be no extra-curricular activities. We will be contacting the relevant families prior to this date so that we know whether to expect your child in school. Places in school will be limited due to the need for teachers to also teach online lessons and provide remote learning and for other staff to be preparing and setting up mass testing facilities in accordance with government guidelines. Year 11 will be able to access lessons online according to their timetable for the remainder of this week.

**From Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January** – Year 11 will return to school along with critical worker and vulnerable children. Mass testing will commence, and all other year groups will be informed of the planned return from Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. Year 10 will be able to follow a timetable of 'live' remote lessons throughout the week, as was the case prior to Christmas and Years 7 – 9 will be set work online via SMHW which will appear on a daily basis.

In terms of preparation for the roll out of mass testing, this is a significant undertaking and one which we are still in the process of figuring out! Schools now have some COVID-19 testing information, but this needs to be understood and planned for before we can announce anything firmly. I appreciate this is still not ideal but please be assured we will be in touch when we know more. You will be required to give your consent to your child being tested and will receive a form to complete and return.

If you are able to offer support and help with this significant undertaking it would be really appreciated; please make contact via [enquiries@dorcan.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@dorcan.co.uk)

**Notification of confirmed or suspected COVID-19 cases**

It remains vital you let the school know if you have any pandemic related concerns we need to be aware of. This is particularly important if you need to take a test or have a positive case. It is vital that your child remains at home if they have any symptoms or have been in contact with anyone who has tested positive.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year and we will be in touch again soon.

With kindest regards

Yours sincerely



Mrs Bareham  
Headteacher