

Dear Parents and Carers

I do hope that you have been able to enjoy this Christmas holiday period even in these difficult times.

As you know there is some debate nationally in relation to the reopening of schools in January and to Covid19 testing arrangements for students and staff initially in secondary schools.

The timing of government policy announcements has proved rather problematic for schools and I'm sure for parents too. Today we had hoped that we would be able to share with you a clear and comprehensive plan for testing and an understanding of the likely impact on schools and students. Local and national meetings in the coming days may bring that clarity. In these uncertain times it may well be wise to expect the unexpected.

In the meantime, we have made some decisions and operational assumptions which I outline below.

Preliminary decisions and operational assumptions.

1. All Trust schools will take January 4th as an INSET day to facilitate urgent and/or necessary planning and will be closed to all pupils.
2. Primary schools will reopen for all pupils on Tuesday January 5th.
3. At St Mary's College Years 11, 13 and the children of critical workers only will return onsite from January 5th.
4. At St Mary's College Years 7-10 and Year 12 will remain at home to receive online, live learning from January 5th.
5. Our expectation is that all schools will be open and operating as usual from January 11th.

Particular guidance for the attendance of children of critical workers and vulnerable children and the arrangements for Free School Meals will be available from schools and on websites.

We will update you with further information as soon as we have it. National guidance may well change.

We very much wish you and our children a happy and more settled New Year.

Kind regards

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