



6th January 2021

Dear Year 10 and 12 parents/carers,

Spring Term 1 – Year 10 and Year 12

We are pleased to have commenced live lessons this morning with Years 10 and 12. We know many parents and pupils have worked hard at home to set up working spaces and ensure devices are ready. Please let us know as soon as possible if you have any barriers to accessing live lessons by emailing Mr Ali via w.ali@decschool.co.uk so we can support with solutions available to us.

We wanted to let you know the plan for remote learning for examination year groups moving forward with school now closed until February half term.

The full details of the implications for schools can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home#going-to-school-college-and-university>

How will Year 10 and 12 lessons look moving forward?

From Wednesday 6th January, all Year 10 and 12 lessons are being delivered live on MS Teams. This will now also continue in line with pupils' timetables for the duration of the school closure period. Therefore, pupils should be ready and logged on to MS Teams for the start of each school day. The teacher of each lesson they are due to attend will invite each pupil into the lesson. There will be approximately 20 minutes of direct teaching, followed by a set of activities. Pupils will then be directed to complete activities and submit their review at the end of the lesson via email or via an online platform if the subject uses one (e.g. Seneca).

During the live lesson, pupils will not be permitted to have their camera on and will be required to communicate with the member of staff via the chat function rather than through spoken dialogue. This is due to the number of pupils in the lesson and the difficulty created when multiple people speak at any one time.

What is happening for pupils who are eligible for Free School Meals?

We will make contact with all parents of pupils who are eligible for FSM over the coming days to offer a food parcel covering the first two weeks of school closure. Parents/carers will need to confirm they would like a parcel before we order goods and packaging. Once parcels are ready for collection, we will make contact to outline arrangements for collection.

Will appointments with our careers advisor still go ahead?

Yes. Mrs Fellows will continue to meet with pupils by telephone call according to the weekly schedule we would have run in school. This means all pupils will receive the necessary advice and guidance to support their college applications and future career planning.





Can pupils attend school?

School is closed for almost all pupils. The only pupils who are in school are those whose parents are critical workers who have requested provision and those who are deemed vulnerable according to support they may be receiving from Birmingham Children's Trust. If you feel you require a critical worker place for your child in school, please contact Mr Ali via w.ali@decschool.co.uk.

Is COVID-19 testing continuing?

No. We will continue with a very small scale testing facility for staff who are working on site, and for pupils who are attending school as part of the key worker/ vulnerable provision. The Government have indicated that mass testing may take place prior to schools reopening later in the term.

What can I do if I need advice/ support?

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us. For Year 12, please contact Mr Hanson via o.hanson@decschool.co.uk. For Year 10, please contact your child's Head of House.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M. Dunn
Head Teacher

