



# BYRCHALL HIGH SCHOOL

LIVE TO LEARN LEARN TO LIVE

## School Closure/Start of Term Arrangements, January 2021 – Update

6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I hope you and your families are safe and well.

How things change ! When I wrote to you last Friday I did not think that we would have to change arrangements before they had even started.

I am sure you know that the Prime Minister announced, on Monday evening, that the country would be entering another period of national lockdown.

This week (i.e. 4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> January), our arrangements for pupils are as already outlined. Only vulnerable children and the children of critical workers are entitled to attend the school site.

- The change is that now all other children will learn remotely until at least February half term.
- Year 11 pupils **will not** be returning to school as previously planned next Monday and year 7-10 **will not** be returning the following week.
- All lessons will be delivered remotely by our teachers, (including to those eligible children attending the school site) to children's normal timetables.

Mr A. R. Birchall Headteacher

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### **Remote Attendance at School**

It is important that children continue to access their education and attend virtual lessons. Therefore, we are putting in place monitoring procedures to ensure their engagement. Please note:

- A lesson register will be taken by all teachers for all lessons throughout the week which will be monitored by the attendance team and tutors.
- If your child is ill or unable to attend lessons, please contact the school in the normal manner. It is especially important to do this if the cause is Covid related.
- Lessons will take place via Microsoft Teams.
- Children should receive invitations to live lessons according to their timetables. The exceptions are PE and morning Form Time.
- Formal morning Form Time registers will take place on Monday and Wednesday at 8.30am. Lesson registers will monitor attendance on all days. Form tutors and pastoral staff will contact children/parents as and when necessary, over welfare and academic issues.

### **Scheduled External Examinations Cancellation**

We have taken the view that our children would, most likely, be disadvantaged by taking the formal examinations due next week and have, therefore, withdrawn them from this series of examinations. They will be entered for later sittings.

### **Laptops and Data**

You may be aware of laptop and data allocations previously made to the school. Most of these were not received until Monday of this week and they are limited in number.

These need to be allocated strictly according to need.

We have surveyed all children previously and have a priority-ordered list for the allocation of devices. If you believe your circumstances have changed please contact the main office and we will discuss your circumstances and eligibility with you.

A new development is the availability of additional data required to access lessons from certain mobile network providers; Three, Smarty, Virgin Mobile, EE, Tesco and Sky.

For further details and to apply please contact the main school reception on 01942 728221.

### Free School Meals

During the lockdown period we will not have the school canteen open. For remote learners and in-school learners who are eligible for free school meals, we will provide a weekly food box, delivered to your home. If you wish to take up this service, please return the form which will be sent out to you shortly.

### Covid Testing

I mentioned to you last week that we are setting up a Covid testing facility in school and you should have received the consent form and information. At present this is still going ahead and staff and children attending school will be tested in accordance with guidance.

Lastly, I really appreciate your cooperation during this difficult time. We have had to cope with a welter of last minute guidance and instructions and turning it around into action and information has been quite challenging. Please contact us if you have further queries.

Thank you for your support. I wish you well with your own challenges and circumstances.

Yours faithfully



Mr A R Birchall  
Headteacher