

Dear Parents / Carers

Please accept my apologies for contacting you during the Christmas holidays but I felt it was important to provide you with some clarity regarding the arrangements for the start of the Spring term following the Secretary of State for Education's announcement in Parliament yesterday afternoon.

The Secretary of State has confirmed that for secondary schools the following arrangements will apply:

w/c 4th January (5th January for us as Mon 4th is an INSET day): schools closed to all students except vulnerable children and children of key workers. Please see my previous email for details of how to contact us if you feel that your children fall into this category.

N.B. We understand that external BTEC exams for sixth form students scheduled for this week WILL GO AHEAD.

w/c 11th January: schools open for vulnerable children, children of key workers and all students in Yr11 and Yr13.

w/c 18th January: schools fully open. We also intend to run Yr11 mocks as planned during this week.

I can confirm that at Walton we will, of course, comply fully with the government's instructions.

For all students at home, we intend to provide remote learning using Microsoft Teams following their normal school timetable. As I promised in my email to you before Christmas, we will provide further information on how to join lessons etc during the INSET day next Monday.

Running parallel to this, the Government has asked us to set up a system of Lateral Flow Tests and they have asked us to prioritise Yr11 and Yr13 students. We will send you further information and a consent form at the beginning of next week as well.

Again, please accept my apologies for writing to you during the holidays but I felt that it was important to summarise the Government's announcement.

In the meantime, I wish you all a happy, healthy and safe New Year.

*Neil Finlay
Headteacher*