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Changes to Arrangements for Start of Term

Dear Parents/Carers

As promised, I am writing to you with the latest arrangements for the start of the Spring Term. Following yesterday's announcements, I can now confirm:

- Home learning will start for students in **all** year groups on Tuesday 5th January. This goes beyond the guidance given by the Department for Education but we felt it was important to start lessons as soon as possible for everyone and not just those taking exams this academic year. Please refer to the Appendix at the end of this letter, which I would appreciate you discussing with your children.
- Year 11 will return to school on Monday 11th January.
- External examinations will carry on as planned.
- All other year groups will return to school on Monday 18th January.

Places will be available from Tuesday 5th January for in-school supervision of students who are vulnerable or whose parents/carers are key workers. Please click on this link (<https://bit.ly/383o4MG>) for more details and access to an online request form – I would appreciate it if you could use this form, even if you have made a prior request by email.

Meanwhile, we will be working hard to set up our system of testing, so that we are able to pick up asymptomatic cases and reduce the risk of the virus spreading in school. Please be aware that this is likely to involve students briefly coming into school prior to their official start date. I do want to reassure you that the testing regime is subject to your consent but we do feel this is a sensible approach and hope that you will feel able to support it. I will be writing to you early in the new term with more details.

I am incredibly grateful to those of you who have already made contact to volunteer to help with this – we will be in touch soon to discuss arrangements. If anybody else would like to offer their time you don't have to have any medical background and training will be given - please email me: astele@warnefordschool.org

At this stage, I would like to make just a couple more points:

- The Year 11 Parents' Evening will be going ahead as planned on Tuesday 12th January. Details will follow at the start of next week.
- Parents of those in receipt of Free School Meals will continue to receive vouchers for the next two weeks.

Continued...

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I hope that you had an excellent Christmas and that positive cases and self-isolation for some did not impact too heavily on plans.

I will finish by wishing you a very Happy New Year and I know you will want to join me in saying good riddance to 2020!

Yours faithfully,



Andy Steele
Headteacher

Appendix – Guidance for Home Learning

Learning will continue for all students as per normal timetables from Tuesday 5th January (Week A). We expect all students to be ready to start lessons at 9.10am each day and be available to work for the whole day.

- Work will be set for each day on Class Charts (either the evening before or first thing in the morning).
- Each lesson will consist of around 40 minutes of activity to allow time to ask questions via email and to accommodate any problems that might be encountered. We would encourage students to take their time and produce something of high quality rather than rush through the tasks.
- Any live lessons via Microsoft Teams will be clearly labelled as such on Class Charts and include the access link. Although the browser version of Teams is fine, students will get a better experience from the free app that is available for most devices.
 - Mobile phones are a good platform to access a live lesson, so make sure they are charged
 - During the lesson, cameras should be switched off and microphones put on mute – the teacher will tell students to switch microphones/cameras on when needed
 - Chat functions must not be used without the teacher's permission
 - Sessions will be recorded
 - In the unlikely event of any poor behaviour, students will be removed from the lesson

We have been made aware of instances when students have returned to a lesson link and used the Chat function, sometimes inappropriately. Where we discover this has happened, we will reluctantly have to sanction those students on their return to school. Please make sure your child has received this message.
- Most lessons in the first week back will not be live lessons to give additional planning time for staff.
- If students don't have their exercise book or other resources for a particular subject then we will rely on their common sense to find alternatives!

As always, if you have any general queries then please contact your child's tutor. Anything specific to a subject should be directed to the relevant teacher.