

4th January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

Arrangements for January 2021 – first week of term

You will have seen media coverage of recent government proposals for secondary schools in January and will have noticed the plans have been changed. The Government has advised that secondary schools in England should not fully re-open to all students in the first two weeks of term (week commencing 4 January 2021).

I would like to update you on our plans, following these latest announcements. We have planned to provide as much live on-line teaching as we can, to support students who have upcoming external examinations. We have also put a full programme of remote learning in place for all other children for this week.

A full breakdown by year group is provided overleaf. In summary:

- On **Monday 4th January**, the school will be closed for all students for a staff training day.
- School will be open from **Tuesday 5th January** for:
 - Vulnerable children in all year groups
 - Children of critical workers in all year groups ONLY where there is no alternative

All other students will receive their learning remotely for the first week of term. It is compulsory for students to fully engage with their timetabled remote learning which will include a number of taught live lessons and I thank you for your support with this. All students must log in at 8:25am every day when their learning manager will take a register.

Year 11 are expected to return to school on Monday 11th January with all other year groups returning on Monday 18th January.

External exams

All pupils in Year 10 have at least one national exam during this period of partial closure. Some pupils have more, and there are also a number of pupils in Year 11 who have external exams. As we did last term, pupils will sit exams in a seating plan which will not change and each year group will sit exams in a different venue. It is essential that pupils attend these exams given how hard they have worked towards them since September.

Remote Learning

Students are well practised in accessing our remote learning offer via Microsoft Teams. If you would like an update or refresher on how to access remote learning, please review our guide to remote learning, via this link <https://www.dewarenne.org.uk/online-academy>. We will contact all pupils who need to loan a device according to our records on Monday 4th January to arrange collection.

I do appreciate that these changes come at short notice but we continue to follow all Government guidance on COVID-19 in order to safeguard our students, staff and wider school community and I know you appreciate these are not my plans, but those of the Government.

We are currently awaiting further guidance and training on the Government's plans for voluntary testing in schools. We hope that this will be a positive development, to allow us to minimise the disruption to staff and students and maintain as much in person teaching and learning as possible. We will update you as soon as we can, when more information is provided.

I would like to thank all members of our school community for your support during these constantly changing times and assure you that at De Warenne Academy we remain committed to keeping your children safe and delivering the best educational experience possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs A Rooney
Principal

For **Tuesday 5th January – Friday 15th January only**, the following arrangements will be in place:

- **Year 7** – Remote learning. A full timetable of remote learning activities will be provided from Tuesday 5th – Friday 15th January. You can access this via <https://tinyurl.com/DWAOnline>. It is compulsory that your child engages fully with all activities included in their timetable and I would like to thank you for your support in this. They are currently expected to return to school on Monday 18th January.
- **Year 8** - Remote learning. A full timetable of remote learning activities will be provided from Tuesday 5th – Friday 15th January. You can access this via <https://tinyurl.com/DWAOnline>. It is compulsory that your child engages fully with all activities included in their timetable and I would like to thank you for your support in this. They are currently expected to return to school on Monday 18th January.
- **Year 9** - Remote learning. A full timetable of remote learning activities will be provided from Tuesday 5th – Friday 15th January. You can access this via <https://tinyurl.com/DWAOnline>. It is compulsory that your child engages fully with all activities included in their timetable and I would like to thank you for your support in this. They are currently expected to return to school on Monday 18th January.
- **Year 10** – Remote learning. A full timetable of remote learning activities will be provided from Tuesday 5th – Friday 15th January. You can access this via <https://tinyurl.com/DWAOnline>. It is compulsory that your child engages fully with all activities included in their timetable and I would like to thank you for your support in this. As your child has external examinations in January their remote learning timetable will include live revision sessions. The dates and times of the examinations are as follows:

Thursday 7th January Construction (8am)
Friday 8th January Travel and Tourism (8am)
Monday 11th January Sport Studies (8am)
Monday 11th January iMedia (12pm)
Thursday 14th January Hospitality and Catering (8am)
Friday 5th February Health and Social Care (12pm)

Year 10 students are currently expected to return full time to school on Monday 18th January but will be in school if they have examinations prior to this.

- **Year 11** - Students should follow their usual timetable from home via Microsoft Teams. You can access this via <https://tinyurl.com/DWAOnline>. They are currently expected to return to school on Monday 11th January for a week of face-to-face teaching.
- **Vulnerable children and children of critical workers** - Attend the academy as normal from Tuesday 5th January. You can find more information about this via the following link. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>. Children of critical workers should of course only attend if there is no other alternative in order to keep down the number of pupils in school. If you believe you fall into this category please contact your child's learning manager on Monday 4th January stating the reason why. They should only attend if both parents/carers are critical workers and proof will be required.