



31st December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope you are all safe and well and that you have a restful Christmas with your loved ones. As we are sure you are aware from the media, the Government changed its guidance yesterday afternoon regarding the start of term in January 2021 and has advised that secondary schools in England should not fully re-open to all students and staff following the Christmas holidays until Monday 18 January 2021.

Therefore, please see the below arrangements which now apply:

From Monday 4th January until Friday 8th January 2021:

- Only the children of key workers and those who are deemed vulnerable should attend the academy in person. If your child is in Year 7-10 and you are a key worker, you would have already informed us if you needed to book a place for your child in our key worker provision from Monday 4th January 2021. However, due to recent changes, if your child is in Year 11 and you are a key worker, please email us at office@poolhayes.atrust.org.uk by Friday 1st January 2021 at 4pm if you now need your child to attend from Monday 4th January 2021. All other students will access remote learning as described below.
- **Any students due to sit vocational or technical exams should attend the academy at the time of their scheduled exam only. (You will be contacted separately if your child needs to attend the academy for examination purposes)**

From Monday 11th January until Friday 15th January 2021:

- Students in exam groups (Year 11 and Year 13) should attend the academy in person, along with the children of key workers and vulnerable children
- All other students will access remote learning as described below.

Unless guidance changes again in the meantime, we will reopen to all students in person on Monday 18 January 2021

If your child is not physically attending our academy, they will still be able to access their learning remotely via Microsoft Teams from Monday 4th January 2021. Students should log onto Microsoft Teams at the beginning of the day (8.45am) where they will see that teachers have sent them invitations to Live Lessons. The timetable for Years 7, 8 and 9 has been slightly modified, in line with government guidance. Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 will follow their 'normal' timetables remotely. A guide reminding students how to access Live Lessons can be found on our website using the following address; www.poolhayes.atrust.org.uk/distance-learning/ We will continue to send work packs home to students who we know cannot access remote learning.

If you have any queries regarding remote learning from Monday 4th January 2021, please email your child's Year Leader:



- Year 7 - Miss Adams: J.Adams@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk
- Year 8 - Ms Jones: M.Jones@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk
- Year 9 - Mr Penn: N.Penn@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk
- Year 10 - Ms Agha: F.Agha@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk
- Year 11 - Mr Francis: R.Francis@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk
- Sixth Form - Mrs Mason-Wait: C.Mason@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk

Mass Testing in education settings

The government has stated that one of the reasons for the delayed return to education is to allow schools across the country to prepare for mass testing of Covid-19. Further details around this are yet to be finalised. They are due to be confirmed early next week when schools return for the new term. We will, of course, communicate these to you as soon as they are confirmed.

FSM

Our catering company, Chartwells, will be providing packed lunches for students who are eligible for Free School Meals who will receive remote education at the start of term. Details of the collection days and times for packed lunches will be communicated to the families concerned. If your child is eligible for FSM and would like to receive a packed lunch, please email us via office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk by Monday 4th January 12pm. Alternatively, you can phone the academy on 01902 368147 on the morning of Monday 4th January 2021. In this way, we can avoid wasting food unnecessarily.

Lunch time arrangements will remain 'as normal' for the minority of students who are physically in the academy from Monday 4th January 2021. The academy's start and end times will also remain 'as normal', depending on their year group. Students will also be required to wear full academy uniform.

We appreciate that this change is short notice and may inconvenience you, but it is essential that we closely follow all Government guidance on COVID-19 in order to safeguard our students, staff and wider school community. We continue to follow government updates and will communicate any updates to you as soon as we receive them. Please continue to follow our social media sites, Twitter and Instagram @poolhayesacad for instant information. Although our academy reception will not be open until Monday 4th January 2021, we continually check our office email account so please contact office@poolhayes.attrust.org.uk if you have any queries.

Please see attached a general overview of return dates, provided by the Department of Education this morning. **The only exception to this, as stated previously, are students who are sitting their vocational examinations. Further information of these times will be communicated to those it involves.**

Finally, it just remains for me to say please stay safe and have a restful New Year with your loved ones. This year has definitely been a strange one but if 2020 has taught us anything, it has taught us the importance of family, friends and our community. We must embrace this as we move into 2021. We look forward to welcoming your children back as soon as they are able to return.



Take care,

P. J. Harris

Mrs Harris
Principal

 Department for Education

Return dates for primary and secondary schools and colleges in England

Year group	w/c 4 Jan	w/c 11 Jan	w/c 18 Jan
Exam years (years 11 and 13)	Prioritise remote education	Return to school	Continue at school
Primary (years 1-6)	Return to school with some local exceptions*	Continue at school with some local exceptions*	Continue at school with some local exceptions*
Secondary / college (years 7-10 and 12)	Prioritise remote education	Prioritise remote education	Full return to school with some local exceptions*
Primary / secondary vulnerable and critical worker	Return to school	Continue at school	Continue at school
Special school	Return to school encouraged	Continue at school	Continue at school
Alternative provision	Return to school	Continue at school	Continue at school

* In some local areas, under the contingency framework students will have remote education except for exam years and vulnerable and critical worker children. Special schools for primary years should continue to allow pupils to attend full time.

