



18th December 2020

Dear Families

Re: January 2021 opening

Well, once again, it seems like right before the end of term plans have totally changed!

The government have now announced that the first week of term in the New Year will be a staggered start.

In order to prepare, the Government have given schools an extra training day on Monday 4th January. This means that school will re-open on Tuesday 5th for all Primary students, Year 10 and Year 11.

Year 7, 8 and 9 will all follow their normal timetable from home.

I appreciate how frustrating this must be when they have had so much time away from school already, but please be assured that staff will be working their hardest to ensure that your children will get high quality teaching whether at school or not.

The school day will continue as normal, with lessons starting at 8:15am for students whether at home or at school. Students will follow their usual timetable, with staff either providing resources or delivering live lessons.

Please support us by ensuring that your child is ready to learn in the morning and follows their usual routine. If you need any guidance with either supporting your child to follow a routine, or with any IT problems, then please contact your child's Progress Leader.

Critical worker and vulnerable child provision

Whilst the vast majority of students will be at home doing remote learning, we will still be accepting children of critical workers like nurses, healthcare professionals and teachers, as well as vulnerable families. These children will be supervised in the same classroom all day and will follow the remote learning schedule of their year group on a Chromebook provided by the school. If you are a critical worker and need to take advantage of this provision, please contact us via email on: office@thehalifaxacademy.org ensuring you write CRITICAL WORKER in the subject line.

Free School Meals

At the time of writing, the Government had not yet told us what would be happening with free school meals. We are working with our kitchen team to make sure that this is catered for.



Heart



Mind



Connect

Mass testing

As I have already mentioned in my videos – we are now in a position where we are able to test students on a weekly basis. This is optional. The Government has asked us to test all students before they return to school. This is to keep everyone as safe as possible. Students that take a test will be able to return to school. Those who do not want to have a test will have to isolate for 10 days before returning to school. This is to identify any positive cases before returning to school.

We will be sending out an electronic consent form for you to complete. Please do join in with this scheme. I know that some of you may have some concerns around this but it is all about keeping the school, the staff, the students and the community as safe as possible. I have included some information in this letter that outlines what happens with the test and I will contact you in the New Year with more detailed information about testing.

Vaccinations

It is always a challenge to be optimistic in these times; but something that should give us genuine hope moving forward, is the release of the vaccine. I have included an image of the first person in Calderdale to receive this; an 86 year old lady called Resham Bi. In the New Year, we will send out more information about the vaccine.



The virus is on the rise. Hospital rates are rising. We have to be careful and do everything we can to keep each other safe. We have come so far together and we must continue to do so.

I shall write again in the New Year, but please keep safe and look after each other.

Mr Perry
Head teacher