



THE GRANGE SCHOOL

Mr V Murray – Headteacher

31 December 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Please excuse the need to write to you during the school holidays and revise the letter sent out prior to breaking up. I want to give you as much notice as possible in preparing for the weeks ahead and I am sure yesterday's Government announcement will have raised questions.

Our revised plans for the start of the Spring Term 2021 have implications in preparing for:

- The start of term;
- Public examinations;
- Year 11 Mock examinations;
- Provision for children of Key Workers and Vulnerable children;
- Testing.

Arrangements for the start of term

As we look towards January 2021:

- January 4th 2021 the school is closed to students, as it is a scheduled INSET Day;
- From Tuesday 5th January, **Key Worker and vulnerable students** will be provided for in school in the same way as we developed our 'mini-school' during the national lockdown in March. Please complete the survey below to assist us in our planning;
- **Year 11 and Year 13** will receive remote learning between 5th-8th January;
- **Year 11** Mock examination schedule will now begin on **Monday 11th January** and students will have study leave between examinations during this week. There are more details below;
- **Year 13** will be in school as normal from **Monday 11th January** for face-to-face lessons.
- **Years 7,8,9,10 and 12** will remain at home between 4th and 17th January and study remotely, via Show My Homework and Microsoft Teams. All students will receive a timetable indicating which of their lessons will be 'live' on Monday 4th January 2021. You will be in school, as normal, from **18th January**;
- **The school will be fully open to all students from January 18th 2021**, unless instructed otherwise by the Department for Education.

I provide a link to guidance received in relation to the phased opening in January:

[Schools return in January 2021](#)

Year 11 Mock Examinations

We will be delaying Year 11 mock examinations by one week and these will start on the morning of Monday 11th January 2021. We will email revised examinations timetables that reflect the change of dates to examinations.

A copy of the revised January timetables will be posted on our website under Curriculum / Examinations:

<https://www.grange.bucks.sch.uk/curriculum/examinations>

As stated above, Year 11 students should attend only for their timetabled examinations during this week. Students need to arrive at school through the *Stapleton House* entrance between 8.40am and 8.45am, ready to be seated for their examination in either the Main Hall or other venue as indicated on their timetable. Staff will be present to direct students appropriately.

The Session 1 examination runs from 8.55am to 10.55am. If this is the only examination taken on the day, we ask students to leave the school site by the *Stapleton House exit* immediately after the exam.

If students need to stay for the session 2 examination running from 11.25am to 1.25pm, a room will be made available for the 30 minutes between sessions.

Students arriving for the session 2 examination only need to arrive between 11.10 and 11.15 by Stapleton House entrance. Unfortunately, the canteen will not be available between sessions or after session 2, so please bring any drinks or snacks you may need for the day.

We will try to avoid a session 3 examination for students in Year 11 but the requirements surrounding COVID testing have required the schedule to be limited to one main examination venue. What would be the second main venue is now required for COVID testing. We will inform students if they are required for session 3 examination.

Public Examinations

The public examinations will go ahead as previously scheduled. The public examinations for the first week are listed below and the ones for week beginning 11th January onwards will go ahead as planned, as per our examinations timetable:

Wednesday 6th January 2021 – Morning Session – please arrive between 8.40 and 8.45 via Stapleton House entrance **for 9.00am start**

BTEC Business – Developing a Marketing Campaign – IT4/IT5 – 3h00min (Year 12/13)

BTEC Sports – Fitness Training & Programming – Youth Centre - 2h30min (Year 12)

Thursday 7th January 2021 – Morning Session – please arrive between 8.40 and 8.45 via Stapleton House entrance **for 9.00am start**

BTEC Music – The Music Industry – Main Hall – 1h00min (Year 11)

BTEC Construction – Construction Technology – Main Hall - 1h15min (Year 11)

Friday 8th January 2021 -Afternoon Session please arrive between 1.40 and 1.45 via Stapleton House entrance **for 2.00pm start**

BTEC Health & Social Care – Human Lifespan Development – Main Hall – 1h30min (Year 12/13)

If you have any questions about the examinations please email Becky Brown Deputy Headteacher at bbrown@grange.bucks.sch.uk

Provision for Key Worker and Vulnerable Students

As during the first lockdown, we are able to offer in-school support to families who are key workers or have a vulnerable child.

Vulnerable children, in terms of the guidance, include those who:

- *are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child*
- *have an education, health and care (EHC) plan*
- *have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:*
- *children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services*

- *adopted children or children on a special guardianship order*
- *those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')*
- *those living in temporary accommodation*
- *those who are young carers*
- *those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example, due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)*
- *care leavers*
- *other children and young people at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health*

If you would like your child to attend on Tuesday 5th January to Friday 15th January, please complete the attached form as soon as possible.

[Key Worker Form](#)

[Vulnerable Child](#)

Mini School will be open from 8.40am to 2.50pm, where students will have access to ICT enabling them to access the remote work set by teachers and their 'live' sessions in school. The canteen will be available during their break and lunch as normal.

Wherever possible, please provide your son / daughter with headphones to use with our PCs during the lessons. We have some spare headphones for student use, but in the interest of minimising cleaning between users, it would be preferable for students to have their own.

Testing

The Government has announced that students and teachers will have access to mass testing from January. For staff, it potentially means that we will have access to testing, with results available in 30 minutes, on a weekly basis. Similarly students who are identified as 'close contacts' and required to self-isolate can be tested daily for seven days.

'Close contacts' will be able to stay in school if they test negative. It is important to note that the test would be optional but be aware that those who do not consent would be required to self-isolate for the current period of 10-days.

We have also been asked to provide testing for all students prior to their start date this term.

We will be working through the recommended guidance for implementing testing on school site and will share more detail over the coming week. Our intention is to be able to provide testing to all students before they start back at school. We encourage all students to have a test but are guided that this is not required as a condition of being allowed to return to school on 18th January 2021. Parental consent forms, for students under the age of sixteen, will be sent out early next week.

I am sure I have not been able to cover all questions but hope to give you enough information to navigate through the next few weeks. I will communicate further early next week. Let us look forward, with hope, that 2021 is the year that we can safely live with COVID-19.

Yours faithfully,

Vince Murray

Headteacher