

Principal: Lesley Welsh



1 January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer

New term update

I hope this finds you and your family safe and well and trust that you managed to enjoy Christmas in light of the difficult circumstances in which we found ourselves at the end of 2020.

As you may be aware, over the last two days, the Government guidance regarding the return to school has changed and this has implications for students in all year groups. The latest information we have states:

- **No** students attend school on Monday 4 January (this was a planned staff training day) **except** those Year 11s who have an exam preparation day for Creative iMedia – these students have received a separate letter and sent back a reply slip to Mrs Nolan.
- From Tuesday 5 January **children of keyworkers and vulnerable children** are entitled to attend school if no other suitable care is available. Normal uniform should be worn and students must wear a face covering. If you would like your child to attend as he/she falls into one of these categories and have not already done so, please complete this short form: <https://forms.gle/ujMVcMjT7JLqRgSk6>
- From Tuesday 5 January **all students who are not in school** will be provided with remote learning through Google Classroom and Google Meet. If your child needs support with a password, please contact reception in the first instance. For those students who do not have access to a device, paper-based work will be provided and will be ready for collection on Tuesday 5 January. Grab bags will be available for children in receipt of Free School Meals.
- There are **some** Year 11 and Year 10 students who have external examinations on the 8 / 11 January – arrangements will be made for these students to prepare for and complete the examinations as usual and these students will be contacted separately on Monday.
- On Monday 11 January **all Year 11 students can return to school**. Normal uniform rules apply and face coverings must be worn. Remote learning will be provided for students in Years 7 – 10. The children of keyworkers and vulnerable children will continue to be provided for in school. If you would like your child to attend school during this second week, please complete THIS short form: <https://forms.gle/Jepb9Ce64Tuu8Kv16>
- On Monday 18 January **all students can return to school**. An updated version of our COVID Risk Assessment will shortly go live on the school website and, as a school in a Tier 3 area, face coverings are **mandatory** for all students and staff, except those who have notified us that they are exempt. Normal school uniform rules apply and students are particularly reminded of our rules on footwear – trainers are **not** permitted and a full list can be found here: <http://georgepindarschool.org/uniform/>

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You may also be aware that the Government has reaffirmed its commitment to roll out mass COVID testing in schools. We are working closely with the local authority to organise and administer tests for our students and staff and will contact you with more details when we have them.

I hope this letter clears up any confusion about the return to school; the situation is of course evolving constantly and I will write to you again if anything changes. School will be staffed as normal from Monday 4 January so please contact us by phone or email news@gps.hlt.academy for any immediate queries.

We look forward to 'seeing' our students online and engaging them in their studies before the full return of all students on 18 January and wish you all the very best for a much happier 2021.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads 'LAWelsh'.

Lesley Welsh
Principal