

RETURN FOR SCHOOLS IN JANUARY - IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ CAREFULLY.

This morning it emerged that the Government may have plans for a staggered return or period of remote learning for secondary schools in January. At the time of releasing the bulletin to parents, students and staff, we have not yet had official details of these plans. However, it is being widely reported that the Prime Minister's spokesman has just confirmed the following:

"The start of the term won't be delayed but what we are doing is asking secondary schools and colleges to operate a staggered return supported by full-time remote education during the first week of term with in-person teaching in full starting on January 11.

"Students in exam year groups, vulnerable children, children of key workers, will attend school or college in person from the start of term as well as students in primary, special and alternative provision schools and colleges."

Whilst we have not had confirmation from the DFE we have, as part of our contingency planning, organised the logistics of such an event for the High School. This page of the weekly bulletin contains information for students and parents/carers **should** such an announcement be made today or over the Christmas holiday.

Will the school be shut if the government announce a staggered start to T3 or a period of remote learning after the Christmas break?

We anticipate that the Government will not shut schools completely but keep them open to at least vulnerable students and children of key workers as happened in the first lockdown. It is probable that exam groups (Y11 and Y13) would also be expected to return. If the government announce a staggered return for certain year groups we will follow their directives. It is anticipated that vulnerable students and key worker children in year groups other than those directed by the government to return will be allowed to do so. **For example**, it could be that the Government direct Y7, Y11 and Y13 to return at the start of T3 along with vulnerable children and key worker children in the other year groups. In the first lockdown, vulnerable students and key worker children did not have to attend school, but schools were open to them if they needed or wanted to attend, or schools thought they should attend.

Can I attend school if I want to?

No – sadly not. The whole point of a circuit breaker would be to reduce the number of contacts significantly so that we can collectively try to slow the spread of the infection. We know that you have been brilliant at getting back into school routines and habits but if the government does decide to issue a circuit breaker hopefully, it would only be short - maybe a week or two.

I am a key worker. I will need to ensure that my child attends school during a circuit breaker so that I can continue to do my job. What should I do?

Log on to the school website and go to the Covid 19 folder in the "Useful Links" menu. Here you will find an updated Key Worker letter (December 2020) and Key Worker Reply Slip. Providing you are working in one of the designated key sectors, complete the reply slip and return to the school enquiries email address enquiries@spaldinghigh.lincs.sch.uk. The enquiries email will be monitored during the Christmas break.

What is meant by "vulnerable" students?

These are children who could benefit from continued full time attendance due to a number of factors. Please see the Government guidance below for more details.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

Will school transport be running if a national circuit breaker is announced?

At the moment, this is an unknown. We would liaise with the Transport Team and share the information as we are given it.

How will remote teaching and learning be achieved if a national circuit breaker is announced?

Please see the Remote Learning letter from Mr Love on the school website.

How will I find out updates from the School?

As always we will keep you fully updated on developments via either In Touch messages or the school website. All letters we send home in relation to Covid are listed on the home page and then transferred to the Covid 19 folder. Documents that are no longer relevant have, with effect from this week, been removed from the Covid 19 folder to avoid confusion.