

1st January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you have enjoyed the Christmas break so far, despite the restrictions placed upon us all.

Following the Secretary of State for Education's announcements on Wednesday 30th December, I write to confirm arrangements for the reopening of Winifred Holtby Academy at the start of the new term.

There has been lots of information from the Department for Education released in a short period and it has also changed several times since the initial announcement. I have waited until today to write to you in the hope that few, if any, further announcements will be made that require us to change our plans yet again. The information in this letter sets out our current provision for students in different year groups. Please take time to read it carefully.

As previously communicated, the Academy will be closed to **all** students on Monday 4th January 2021.

For Vulnerable Students and the Children of Critical Workers in all Year Groups

- The academy will be open for all children in these categories from Tuesday 5th January.
- If you feel that your child may be eligible to attend and have not already informed us, please contact the academy no later than 9.00am on Monday 4th January by email to enquiry@winifredholtbyacademy.com; we will then confirm your child's place by 6.00pm on Monday 4th January.
- Please remember that to qualify for a Critical Worker place, **both** parents / carers must be employed in sectors that are critical to the coronavirus (Covid-19) response. You may be asked for proof of your critical worker status; either a photo of your ID badge, or an email from your work account will suffice.
- Students will be required to attend at their usual staggered start time and they will follow their normal timetable with their usual staff. However, staffing levels may require us to make some adjustments.

For Students in the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 Hub

- The academy will be open for all students in the Hub from Tuesday 5th January. Students should arrive at their usual time and they will follow their normal timetable.

Headteacher: **Mr M Brown B.Sc (Hons)** | Winifred Holtby Academy

Midmere Avenue, Leads Road, Kingston Upon Hull, HU7 4PW | Company Number 8426992

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For Students in Year 11

- From Tuesday 5th January, Year 11 students will work from home, accessing a mixture of live teaching or online work, all accessed through Microsoft Teams, in the usual way.
- The Director of Year 11, Mrs Roberts, and the Year Team, Mrs Dusher and Mrs Langley, will make every effort to make contact with all students during the week to check on well-being and progress with online learning.
- Year 11 students will return to face-to-face lessons from Monday 11th January. I will contact you again next week with further information in relation to this and the Government's plan to offer Covid-19 testing to all returning students.
- If you require any further information or support, please direct all queries to the Year 11 Team in the first instance and they will ensure that you receive a response.

For Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10

- From Tuesday 5th January, students will work from home, accessing a mixture of live teaching or online work via Microsoft Teams, in the usual way.
- Year Directors and Year Teams will make every effort to make contact with all students during their period of home learning to check on wellbeing and progress with home learning.
- Students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will return to face-to-face teaching from Monday 18th January. I will contact you next week with further information in relation to this and the Government's plan to offer Covid-19 testing to all returning students.
- Students in Year 10 who are due to sit vocational examinations in construction and sport will still be able to access face-to-face support for important exam preparation and you will already have received an update from Mrs Farmer in relation to this.

It is essential that all efforts are made to enable students to access online learning during this time. If your child does not have reliable and consistent access to an online device (a laptop is much preferable to a smart phone or tablet) please contact the academy by telephone or email to enquiry@winifredholtbyacademy.com.

Students that are eligible for Free School Meals will continue to be provided for whilst working from home and you will receive more information on this on Monday 4th January.

When returning to the academy, please be reminded that it is a requirement for every student to bring a face covering each day and a sealable plastic bag to store it in when not in use. Face coverings should be clean or new each day. Only those students with a valid medical exemption are permitted not to wear a face covering and this must be communicated with the Year Team so that an academy pass can be issued.

There will, no doubt, be more information to share with you next week so please keep a close eye on all communication from the academy. I hope that you will appreciate that we have been responding to information and guidance provided by the government on an almost daily basis throughout the Christmas holidays and we aim to provide you with the most up-to-date information as soon as we can. However, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

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As ever, I thank you for your understanding and patience through these challenging times and I wish you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Brown
Headteacher

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