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**WEAVERS  
ACADEMY**  
*Creative  
Education  
Trust*

5th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Happy New Year to you and to your family. I hope that you have had a restful Christmas and New Year.

As you are aware, the government has announced that a new national lockdown will come into force on Wednesday 6th January.

The government's decision does not mean that Weavers Academy is no longer a safe place for students but rather, is based upon the need to limit the number of contacts that all of us have with people in other households.

During the period of national lockdown Weavers Academy will remain open to vulnerable young people and the children of critical workers only. All other students will learn remotely until February half-term.

The government have stated that *'The new variant appears to affect all ages but we have not seen any changes in the severity among any age groups, including children and young people.'*

I want to reassure you that the system of protective measures that we have put in place means that any risks are well managed and controlled. Please refer to the school's Covid-19 Risk Assessment which you can access on the school's website at:

<https://www.weaversacademy.org.uk/home/parents/covid-19-risk-assessment>

Students with at least one parent or carer who is listed as a critical worker are eligible for a school place. The critical worker list has been updated to include new workforces whose work is critical following the end of the EU transition period. You can access the updated critical worker list at the link below:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?utm\\_source=4%20January%202021%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?utm_source=4%20January%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19)

Please click on the link below to register your child for a place if you have not done so already:



<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yu1GLt0A20uVy2z1Ys-7pK-XmqrZVEtMtt4v7HITJERUMEJXWEhXT0pYNFJSVTNISjNHUkq2VTdNNy4u>

## **Remote learning**

**All students will be taught remotely via Microsoft Teams from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.**

The learning activities planned for students will ensure that they have meaningful and ambitious work to undertake each day in different subjects.

Teachers will continue to plan and to deliver high-quality lessons in the online environment that incorporate the following principles:

- Clear explanations of new subject content supported by question and answer sessions as appropriate and the provision of high-quality curriculum resources or videos.
- Engagement in learning and progression through the curriculum will be closely monitored to ensure that students are learning what is intended.
- Appropriate strategies and approaches will be used to ensure that students receive feedback on their learning at least weekly.
- Students' learning needs will be met through a range of strategies and approaches.

Students should access their calendar using Microsoft Teams for their live lessons. All students have access to Microsoft Teams through their school account.

Form group tutorial will take place every day and start at **8:30 am** for all year groups. This will be an important means of keeping students in touch with each other and for communicating key information. Additionally, the sessions will continue to deliver the programme of social, moral, spiritual and cultural education alongside careers and employability skills.

The school will monitor student attendance and all students are expected to access and engage with the online curriculum and learning activities in line with their timetable.

Morning break will be from 10:55 am – 11:15 am and lunch should be taken between 1:15 pm– 1:45 pm.

Live lessons will take place during the school day via Microsoft Teams and will be delivered by subject teachers. All students will follow a year band timetable so may not have exactly the same lessons as they would have if they were in school.

The timetable for each day with hyperlinks to access the lessons will be posted in the relevant Year Team area of MS Teams.



Students should follow their normal timetable whilst learning at home and teachers will stream and set work depending on the content being covered.

## **Technology**

If online access to remote learning is problematic in any way, please contact the school as soon as possible so that we can support your child to continue to learn.

Please communicate any issues in regard to school laptops through the following link as soon as possible:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yu1GLt0A20uVv2z1Ys-7pK-XmqrZVEtMtt4v7HITJERURFBDM0NaOE9JWUIBNVRIS1QyM0QyMjRBWi4u>

If your child experiences any difficulties whilst using technology to access remote learning, they can also contact the school for support at:

[laptoploan@weaversacademy.org.uk](mailto:laptoploan@weaversacademy.org.uk).

## **Public examinations**

The government has decided that it is not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal. The Education Secretary will work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements. Schools will be updated in due course.

Students will inevitably be very disappointed and perhaps somewhat shocked by this announcement. This is entirely understandable in light of the government's commitment to students, families and school staff that exams would happen as usual this year.

However, when our students have had an opportunity to come to terms with the announcement and what it means for them, we can continue to work in partnership to reassure them of the following:

- Their hard work and their effort will be recognised and the alternative arrangements that Ofqual establish will fairly reflect this in students' final grades.
- They will still be able to pursue their preferred programmes of study in our sixth form (or another sixth form), or at college or through work-based training and employment. Whilst disappointing, the fact that students' grades were not arrived at by public examination will not negatively impact their life-choices.
- The 'value' of A level and GCSE has not altered. Therefore, the grades that students achieve will still enable them to capitalise on their aptitudes, talents, interests and ambitions as we move forward.



Whilst the government has decided that exams cannot go ahead fairly this summer, they have decided that public vocational exams and assessments scheduled to take place in January will go ahead as planned. The schedule of exams is set out below.

<b>January 2021 Examinations</b>					
Date	Start	Duration	Board	Component Title	Year
Thu 07 Jan	09:00	01:00	EDEXL/KSQ	The Music Industry	11
Fri 08 Jan	13:00	01:30	EDEXL/KSQ	Human Lifespan Development	12
Mon 11 Jan	13:00	02:00	RSA	EC3BUS: U1 the Business Environment	12/13
Mon 11 Jan	13:00	01:15	OCR	Creative Imedia: Preprdctn Skills Written	11
Tue 12 Jan	13:00	02:00	RSA	EC3DM : U1 Media Products & Audiences	13
Wed 13 Jan	09:00	01:30	RSA	EC3BUS: U2 Working in Business	13
Wed 13 Jan	09:00	01:30	OCR	Ent & Mrkt: Ent & Mrktng Cncpts Written	11
Wed 13 Jan	09:00	03:45	Pearson	Drama Performance from Text	11
Thur 14 Jan	09:00	01:45	LIBF	Part A E-Test	12
Fri 15 Jan	13:00	02:00	RSA	EC3DM : U2 PRE-Production & Planning	13
Mon 18 Jan	09:00	01:45	LIBF	Part B Written Paper	12
Thur 21 Jan	09:00	01:15	BTEC	Fitness for Sport & Exercise	10
Wed 27 Jan	09:00	01:45	BTEC	Fitness for Sport & Exercise	11

Mr Higgins (Year 11) and Mrs Sexsmith (sixth form), will contact students with more information in due course.

When our students have worked through their understandable disappointment, the key message that I know you will join me in reiterating to them is that they need to keep going.

They need to attend every online lesson and continue to work hard knowing that every piece of work still makes a difference!

I have this morning joined Year 11 students in their tutorial session to explain this to them and to reassure them.

Please be reassured that our teachers are well-planned and ready to engage with the students online and our support professionals have been deployed to provide additional support where required, including to help students to 'catch-up'.

Teachers will continue to cover the content of awarding body specifications online and to give students the opportunity to practise the essential skills that they need to master to succeed in key assessment focuses.



This morning during the tutorial session with Year 11, students were invited to identify any specific support or resources that they feel would be useful to them. This can be communicated online, including through the 'chat' function in MS Teams. Mr Higgins will co-ordinate action to ensure that students' needs are met.

Similarly, we will also be inviting those in Years 12 and 13 to do the same and to identify specific areas of their learning where they would appreciate further support, advice or guidance.

Once Ofqual have decided on the alternative arrangements for awarding grades we will of course share this information with you.

### **Year 11 Parents' Evening**

The Year 11 parents' evening will still take place on Thursday 7th January online and we will be in touch with further details.

We will be using special remote parents' evening software that has been trialled successfully in other Creative Education Trust schools. We are looking forward to talking to you about the learning and progress of your child and to planning and agreeing next steps so that together, we can continue to help them to maximise their educational potential.

There is a video guide which can be accessed via the link below which explains how the system will work: <https://vimeo.com/473882995>

Appointments can be made from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> until Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January.

Please visit <https://weaversacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk> to book your appointments.

Login to the school cloud with the following information:

Student's First Name

Student's Surname

Date of Birth

Should you wish to make any changes after this date please contact the school office on 01933 222830.

If you do not have access to the internet or have trouble with the system, please contact the school office who will be happy to add appointments on your behalf or make alternative arrangements to ensure that you can still consult with your child's teachers.

Each appointment will last precisely 10 minutes at the end of which the call will automatically end.



## Mass Testing

As you are aware, schools were asked to implement mass testing arrangements before the announcement of the new lockdown on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The government require that we continue to set up arrangements for the testing programme to enable weekly testing of staff and daily close contact testing for those staff and students attending the school. This programme will also enable the school to test students on their return to school.

Whilst the government is encouraging all students and staff to participate in the testing arrangements are of course voluntary and any testing will only take place with consent.

All parents and carers are required to complete the attached Microsoft Form giving or declining consent. On this occasion an email will not be sufficient. Thank you in advance for letting us know whether you consent or not. Please follow the link below to complete the form:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yu1GLt0A20uVy2z1Ys-7pKJji8LfMxdEskqzBRyLUmtUQjhPN1o2OFZRS1A2N1QxVkiXRkIVN0JJTS4u>

If you have any queries regarding this, please contact us via the link below:

[masstesting@weaversacademy.org.uk](mailto:masstesting@weaversacademy.org.uk)

When we have had the opportunity to set up our local arrangements we will of course communicate these to you.

## Covid-19

If your child or members of your household become unwell with COVID-19, please continue to make us aware of this using the link below:

[covid@weaversacademy.org.uk](mailto:covid@weaversacademy.org.uk)

It would be helpful if you let us have the following information when you contact us please:

- **Your child's name and form**
- **Yours child's last day of attendance in school**
- **The date your child's symptoms started**
- **The date of your child's test and the outcome**



- ***Please also confirm whether you consent to the school sharing sharing your child's medical information***

### **Free school meal provision**

During the period of national lockdown, we will continue to provide meal options for all students who are in school.

Meals will be available free of charge to all students who are eligible for free school meals and who are in school.

We will continue to provide food vouchers or food parcels for students who are eligible for free school meals who are not attending school.

Please email us at: email [weafsmenquiries@weaversacademy.org.uk](mailto:weafsmenquiries@weaversacademy.org.uk) to register for food vouchers or for a 'Food Box' which will be supplied by Morrisons. Please confirm your address, contact number and that you would like to proceed and we will then register you for an account.

Food parcels will be distributed in line with guidance on social distancing at all times.

Please note that during the national lockdown, families can continue collecting parcels where appropriate social distancing measures are in place.

The specific arrangements for delivery or collection will be communicated to you in due course.

### **Conclusion**

Please be assured that our continuing priority is to do everything possible to ensure that each student receives as full and as normal a curriculum as possible either in school or at home. Our efforts continue to be on reducing any negative impact of the pandemic on students' emotional wellbeing and academic learning so that they achieve their full educational potential.

The school recognises that the last few months have been very difficult and upsetting for many students and their families. For this reason, the school is continuing to provide counselling and mentoring support to students in need and has done throughout the pandemic.

Students can continue to access materials through the school's website where there are links to a range of resources to support mental health and wellbeing:

<https://www.weaversacademy.org.uk/home/weavers/mental-wellbeing>



Thank you all for your patience and for all that you are doing to support the learning of your child at home. Please be assured of our continuing partnership as we continue working together for all of the students of our school.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vivien Swaida". The signature is written in a dark grey or black ink and includes a long, sweeping horizontal line at the end.

Vivien Swaida  
Principal