



**Queen Katharine
Academy**

A proud member of



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31st December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you again today following the announcement from the Government that was made yesterday afternoon.

In this announcement, the Government updated its guidance regarding the start of term in January for secondary school students. The Government has now advised that secondary schools in England should not fully re-open to all students and staff until Monday 18th January 2021.

All students will start their learning remotely from **6th January** and they will be expected to engage fully with this. This can be accessed through Microsoft Teams (Assignments). When an Assignment is set via Microsoft Teams, students will be notified via their school email, so please remind your child to check this. Thank you for your support.

Students in **Year 11 and 13**, will then return to school on **Monday 11th January 2021**. Year 11 and Year 13 students should enter the building via their dedicated entry point and the normal school day will apply.

Students in **all other year groups** will return to school on **Monday 18th January 2021** students should enter the building via their dedicated entry points and the normal school day will apply.

Vulnerable children and children of key workers will be able to return to school on **Wednesday 6th January 2021**. If this applies to your child, please contact the school via email: info@qka.education to reserve a place for your child.

The only exception to this is where a student has a public examination or controlled assessment during the first week of term. In this situation, the student will be expected to attend for the examination session(s) only. This applies to three exams on Thursday 7th Friday 8th January. Further details will be confirmed with those students involved in due course.

We appreciate that this change is very short notice and may therefore cause you some inconvenience. However, it is essential that we closely follow all Government guidance on COVID-19 to safeguard our students, staff and wider school community. This decision has been made to help all schools prepare for the roll out of mass testing of staff and students using the new, quicker COVID-19 tests known as 'lateral flow tests'. By testing we will help to stop the virus spread and help to keep our school open as safely as possible. We will be writing with further information about the testing arrangements when they have been finalised.

The testing will be in addition to the stringent measures that we put in place to keep our school community as safe as possible last term. If your child or anyone in your household develops symptoms, please do not attend school and continue to follow the Government's self-isolation guidelines. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

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Additional information in relation to the distribution of Free School Meals for those eligible students will be shared at the start of term.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to get in touch. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing your child on the relevant start date in the New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Mayes'.

Mrs L Mayes
Principal