

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The Green Road, Ashbourne, Derbyshire DE6 1EP

Tel: 01335 343 685 Email: enquiries@qegs.email Twitter: @qegs_ashbourne

Web: www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr S Garrity Chair of Governors: Mr C Smith



31st December 2020

QEGS January 2021 Update

Dear Students, Staff, Parents, Carers,

I hope that you are all safe and well. I did not expect to be writing to you all on New Year's Eve. However, I am sure like me you would rather be informed in advance of what we do know at this stage.

It has been a difficult year and yet fantastic too in many ways. I know that whatever challenges we face in 2021, we can support each other to overcome them and succeed!

Following the government announcement yesterday and a meeting I have held just today, with Mrs Betty (QEGS Deputy Headteacher) and Mrs Smith (QEGSMAT Director of Education - Secondary), I am able to confirm the following at this stage:

Key Dates for QEGS students

- Vulnerable students and Critical Worker children can attend onsite provision from Monday 4th January
- Year 11 and 13 students can return to onsite provision from Monday 11th January
- All other year groups can return to onsite provision from Monday 18th January
- Remote learning will be provided for all year groups and classes from Monday 4th January – see below.

Further Details on Provision

- School will **only** be open to children of Critical Workers and those students deemed to be 'vulnerable' on Monday 4th January.
- Mrs Betty and the Pastoral Team will make telephone contact with all 'vulnerable' students and their families to discuss the structure of this provision from Monday 4th January.
- A list of the employment roles classed as 'Critical Worker' can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>
- For children of Critical Workers, our survey for you to sign up for provision can be found here, **please complete before 12 noon on Saturday 2nd January:** <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=PYCwG3TptkKUJQEK3ByuarudQbwKzINBmukBMhy mL5UMVE1TEZLNjhYTzIIRVVZSFcyS1kwTDRTTy4u>
- Vulnerable students and children of critical workers will follow their remote learning provision on-site, and will be in a consistent 'bubble' for the duration of this provision (first 2 weeks of term if in Yrs 7-10+12).
- Full school uniform expectations for vulnerable and children of critical workers. There will not be any PE lessons during this two week provision. Registration will take place in the main hall at 08.30am for those arriving on foot/private transport and at 08.40am for those arriving by bus.
- School Transport will run as normal for all students attending onsite provision in first two weeks.

Remote Learning Provision

- Whilst the government have advised schools to prioritise exam groups for the remote learning, we feel that we are able to provision for all of our year groups who are not onsite.
- The remote learning provision will differ according to year groups. Ensuring that the demands onsite to establish mass testing whilst balancing onsite and offsite educational provision can be met.
- Therefore, a simplified timetable will be established, ensuring all subjects are covered over the course of the week – further details will be issued on 2nd Jan.

- Wherever possible, remote learning will be interactive or live, appreciating that some staff will be supervising students onsite and/or involved in overseeing mass testing preventing this from being a consistent expectation. We may also have staff absent due to their own ill health.

Exams

- External vocational exams, scheduled for the first two weeks involving Yrs 10,11, 12 and 13 will go ahead as planned. Additional lesson and preparation support will be provided for all involved either onsite or remotely. Teachers will be in touch with relevant students to inform them of provision and exam details.
- We will confirm if the existing dates for Yr12 and Yr13 mock exams will be kept or changed on Jan 2nd.

Mass Testing

In preparation for our commencement of onsite mass testing, I have included a link to the information parents, students and staff will need to read and consent to prior to tests being carried out. We will begin testing as soon as we can safely do so.

Information on mass testing can be found via the link below:

<https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/covid-19/covid-19-testing/>

Please use the Microsoft Forms link below for the return of the consent and registration documents.

For those attending onsite provision from **Jan 4th** please complete before **4pm on Tuesday 5th January.**

www.qegs.link/covid19testing

Please only send scanned versions or hard copies if the Forms link is problematic.

To summarise the testing approach:

- All staff will be offered a weekly test
- All students will be offered an initial and follow up test, 3-5 days apart. Vulnerable and Key Worker children onsite plus Yr11 and 13 will be first, followed by other year groups.
- Identified close contacts of positive cases will have the option to take a test each day for 7 days or to self-isolate.

This is a new challenge for us all and a huge undertaking for our school with 1379 students! We fully support the initiative of mass testing in schools to ensure positive cases are identified quickly and offered appropriate support. Equally, we appreciate that some people may be nervous and have lots of questions. As and when we know more, we will update and answer queries. We want to support and allay any fears.

Other information at this stage:

- Yr9 PCE and Options event will both go ahead as planned.
- As year groups return, PE lessons will be as normal and as per students' timetables. Full QEGS PE kit expected to be worn on days when PE lesson.

Reminders from end of last term:

Uniform

Now the weather is colder and wetter, we want students to be warm and well equipped for all eventualities. Our uniform expectations are clear and detailed on what we permit and what we don't. A particular concern at this time of year are designer/logo jumpers, sweaters and hoodies that are not allowed. Items which are not part of the school uniform will be removed, confiscated and parents contacted to discuss the concern. Just a reminder to ensure all students have the correct uniform for their return:

- Students in Years 9-13 who wear back school skirts, these must be no more than 3cm above the knee and not in a stretchy material.
- In cold weather a black, V-necked jumper with embroidered logo may be worn under blazers.
- Students should only wear QEGS branded PE tops and not any other sports branded sweatshirts or jumpers.

It can sometimes be tempting to trial out new hairstyles or nail art over the holidays but please ensure that the school requirements are met before return:

- No extreme hairstyles. Hair must not be cut with tramlines or patterns. Heads must not be shaved either fully or in part. Dyed hair – only full head or highlights in natural hair colours. No blocks of colour.
- Nail varnish of any description is not allowed. Our uniform expectations are found here: <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/key-information/school-uniform/>

Please help us to limit the occurrence of any uniform incidents and thus reduce the time it takes for staff to follow up and deal with these matters by reminding your child of what is/is not allowed. We will be starting the New Year by checking uniform and ensuring all of our students are smart and meeting our expectations at all times.

You can order uniform items direct from our supplier: <https://www.schoolsinuniform.co.uk/>

If you would like further support with any uniform matters, please contact your child's Progress Leader to discuss.

Key Pastoral Contacts can be found here: <https://www.queenelizabeths.derbyshire.sch.uk/contact-us/>

End of school student departure times

The school day timings will remain the same for New Year. Please remind your child of the start and end times:

- 8.30am onsite and in classrooms for those students NOT using school transport.
- 8.40am onsite and in classrooms for those students who DO use school transport (appreciating some buses run late).
- 2.20pm departure from lessons ONLY for those students accessing school transport that day and from the school Bus Bay. No other students should be leaving lessons and the school site at this time.
- 2.30pm departure for students NOT using school transport that day. Students deliberately seeking to leave the school site before their designated time will receive an after-school detention

Covid test results prior to start of term

If a student or member of staff tests positive for coronavirus [COVID-19] and has to self-isolate for the start of term, you should telephone 0789 0319042 on Saturday 2nd January 2021. This will help us in planning for a successful return to school.

Take care, enjoy the rest of the festive break and we look forward to seeing you all very soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Garrity
Headteacher