



Hulme Hall Grammar School

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An independent co-educational school accredited by the Independent Schools Council

18th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to begin by apologising for sending you yet another letter!

I had already completed my end of term letter to you when the news broke yesterday afternoon that the Government would be asking schools to begin the new term with a “staggered” start for pupils.

The main purpose of this letter is to outline the arrangements for the beginning of the new term as I see them at the moment.

Essentially, the Government has stated that pupils should be educated remotely until face to face education resumes on **Monday 11th January**. However, Year 11 pupils, vulnerable children and the children of critical workers should come into school for the originally scheduled start of term on **Thursday 7th January**. JLC pupils should also attend school as normal on this date.

Therefore, all pupils in Years 7 to 10 inclusive should **remain at home on Thursday 7th January and Friday 8th January**, unless they fall into the critical worker or vulnerable child category. At this stage, I envisage that the majority of lessons will be provided “live” on Microsoft Teams, although for a small number of lessons, work may be provided on the Satchel One app.

On **Thursday 7th January and Friday 8th January**, those pupils learning at home will follow the normal school timetable (for Week 1), although there will be a few minor changes to lesson times, to allow staff to move between classrooms and set up for live lessons. Please bear in mind that staff are likely to be teaching to pupils who are in front of them in class, as well as to those who are joining the lesson remotely.

The timetable for those two days will be as follows:

Period	Key Stage 3 Years 7, 8 & 9	Key Stage 4 Year 10
Registration	9.00am – 9.05am	9.00am – 9.05am
Period 1	9.15am – 10.05am	9.15am – 10.05am
Period 2	10.15am – 11.05am	10.15am – 11.05am
Break	11.05am – 11.30am	11.05am – 11.30am
Period 3	11.30am – 12.20pm	11.30am – 12.20pm
Lunch / Period 4	12.20pm – 1.30pm (Lunch)	12.30pm – 1.20pm (Period 4)
Period 4 / Lunch	1.30pm – 2.20pm (Period 4)	1.20pm – 2.30pm (Lunch)
Period 5	2.30pm – 3.20pm	2.30pm – 3.20pm

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www.hulmehallschool.org

When I wrote to you in November regarding possible contingency plans should schools be forced to switch to remote learning, I asked that parents who fall into the critical worker category make my Secretary, Mrs Cooke, aware of that fact. Mrs Cooke will contact those parents who responded to that request separately. If you also feel that you fall into the key worker category and you wish for your child to come into school on Thursday 7th January and Friday 8th January, please e-mail Mrs Cooke, at secretary@hulmehallschool.org by Tuesday 5th January.

Members of our pastoral team will make e-mail contact with parents whose children may fall into the vulnerable category to ascertain whether or not you want your child to attend school.

All Year 11 and JLC pupils are expected in school on Thursday 7th January.

I realise that this is not the way any of us would wish to start the new term and obviously we will need to be vigilant should the Government announce any further changes over the course of the holiday.

You may also have read in recent days that the Government is planning to introduce mass / serial testing for pupils and staff in school in the new year. At this time, we are unclear as to exactly how this is proposed to work and we are still receiving information about this process. Rather than trying to second guess what will happen, I will write to you again early in the new year, when hopefully the process will have become clearer.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please e-mail secretary@hulmehallschool.org, but please bear in mind it might take a little longer to reply to your e-mails over the holiday period.

I wish you and your families continued good health in the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Grierson', written in a cursive style.

Dean Grierson

Headmaster