

Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/LFO

31 December 2020

Headteacher:
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Dear Parent

I am writing to you regarding changes to the beginning of the new school term that were announced in Parliament yesterday afternoon by Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education. The changes are in response to the significant increase in the spread of Covid-19, particularly the new variant, and are designed to give schools sufficient time to ensure they are able to deliver the mass testing programme prior to students returning to school. As always, our priority is to ensure the safety and well-being of all members of our school community and to maintain the continuity of students' education. I know that you and your children may be feeling anxious about both the rising rate of infection and having time away from school. I can assure you that we will do our very best to mitigate the impact of these and ask for your support and understanding with the measures set out below.

Week Beginning Tuesday 5 January 2021



- **Years 11 and 13** – remote learning will take place for students. Teachers will either provide high quality, meaningful work to complete or students will be invited to attend 'live' lessons. All work and/or links to 'live' lessons will be provided via Class Charts. Work set for each subject will mirror students' Week 2 timetable and, broadly speaking, they will be expected to complete approximately four hours of work per day. If students have any queries regarding their work, they should contact their teachers using the Class Charts messenger service. If possible, work should be completed in exercise books or neatly on paper that can be stuck into books.
- **Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12** – whilst schools are not expected to provide remote learning for students in these year groups we feel it is important that students resume learning and will provide work for them to complete on the Remote Classroom page of the school website. They should endeavour to work through the tasks set for each subject they study. If students have queries regarding their school work they should contact their teachers using the Class Charts messenger service. If possible, work should be completed in exercise books or neatly on paper that can be stuck into books.

Week Beginning Monday 11 January 2021

- **Years 11 and 13** – students will attend school as normal, following their timetable (Week 1) and the usual 'bubble' arrangements which have been in place throughout the Autumn term. Lunch will be provided in the dining room and students will have an opportunity to purchase a snack at morning break (Year 11) or during the day from the Sixth Form Coffee Shop (Year 13).



- **Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12** – students will complete meaningful work set by class teachers using Class Charts. They will be provided with approximately 45-50 minutes per subject of work to complete, reflecting the daily subjects on their timetable. If students have queries regarding their school work they should contact their teachers using the Class Charts messenger service. If possible, work should be completed in exercise books or neatly on paper that can be stuck into books.

Week Beginning Monday 18 January 2021

Students in all year groups will return to school and will follow their normal timetable (Week 2).

Open School

Our more vulnerable students and those whose parents are critical workers are able to attend Open School provision. Families of eligible children will have been contacted directly by school or received a ParentMail enabling them to book a place for weeks beginning Tuesday 5 January and Monday 11 January 2021. Information about the programme of teaching and support that will be provided to students who attend Open School is included on the Eventbrite booking form. Attendance is not mandatory and places will only be available via this booking system so that the school can ensure the appropriate staffing and safety measures are in place. If you wish to secure a place for your child at Open School please complete and submit the Eventbrite booking form by 11:00pm on Sunday 3 January 2021.

School Lunches

School lunches will be available to purchase from the dining room for students who attend school during the next two weeks. Students attending who are in receipt of Free School Meals will receive a free meal as usual. Families of students eligible for Free School Meals who are not attending school will receive a supermarket voucher.

Coding Absence

Current guidelines confirm that students who are not expected to attend school during weeks beginning Tuesday 5 January and Monday 11 January 2021 will have their register marked with a X code which does not count towards their attendance.

Vocational & Technical Qualification Examinations

Examinations for students completing BTEC courses in Year 13 and the OCR Creative iMedia course in Year 11 are unaffected and will continue as planned in Holy Trinity Church Hall. Students should adhere to the arrangements previously communicated. If any student is concerned that they may not be able to sit an examination as he/she is required to self-isolate, please contact Mrs Hiller (Examinations & Data Manager) by email at exams.database@formbyhighschool.com.

Lateral Flow Device Testing

A lot of work has taken place already to prepare for mass testing of students and staff to commence next term. If all goes according to plan, testing for staff, students in Years 11 and 13, and those attending Open School will take place during week commencing Tuesday 5 January 2021. We are hopeful to bring students in all other year groups into school for testing during the week commencing Monday 11 January in readiness for their return to school the following week. More detailed information about testing will be provided to parents and students next week. In the meantime, if you have not yet completed and submitted the consent form which was sent on Tuesday 22 December by ParentMail (to parents of students under 16) and by Class Charts (to students aged 16+), please do so as quickly as possible.

Contact with School

If you have any concerns or require support during the period when school will not be fully open, please do not hesitate to get in touch as members of staff will be available to assist. Please feel free to contact school by telephone (01704 873100) or email (enquiries@formbyhighschool.com). Alternatively, you may wish to send a message to Mrs Taylor (Pastoral Support Manager) who is contactable on 07753 219456.



Tier 3 Measures

From midnight last night, the Liverpool City Region was placed in Tier 3, placing Sefton and the surrounding area on Very High Alert. I urge that you speak with your child about the measures he/she is expected to follow. In particular, please explain that it is unlawful for people of all ages to meet indoors with anyone from a different household or to congregate outdoors in groups of more than six and individuals caught breaking the law may receive a fixed penalty notice (initially £200). Please also encourage your child to follow the 'hands, face, space' guidance, wear a mask (unless exempt) when required to do so and maintain a respectful social distance from others, particularly the elderly and vulnerable. Everyone playing their part can only help in slowing down the spread of this awful disease.

I trust the information set out above is helpful. Please feel free to make contact with school (enquiries@formbyhighschool.com) if you require any further information.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and trust, and wish you and your family all the very best for the new year.

Yours sincerely

D A Mackenzie
Headteacher