

Friday 18 December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Response to Government announcement on school opening in January

Following the Government announcement on staggered starts to school in the New Year, I would like to confirm the arrangements for Weald.

All staff will return to school as planned on Thursday 7 January 2021. All lessons will go ahead as per our published timetable, with some in-person and some live-streamed.

Year 11 and 13 will also return to school on 7 January. All other year groups will return to school on Monday 11 January, with the exception of Key Worker and vulnerable students who are welcome to join us from 7 January.

If you wish your child to take up a Key Worker space, please email attendance@wealdgs.org so that we know to expect you. Please be aware, our Attendance Office is shut from today (Friday 18 December 2020 until 7 January 2021), so we will not be able to confirm receipt of your email. However, students should simply make their way to tutor rooms on Thursday 7 where staff will be able to register them.

All absence systems for staff and students will operate as normal.

Mass testing in schools from January

We will continue to review the guidance from Government in relation to their expectations of us setting up a multi-bay test centre on each Weald campus.

Given that we are just going into the Christmas break, and to manage expectations, it is very unlikely we will have the facilities or staff in place to be able to offer this when we return in January. Therefore, we advise you take up the current offer of testing - sent in the letter from KCC prior to the return to school - in order for us all to confidently return to normal lessons in January.

I am really pleased to inform you that we have recruited two school nurses who will be joining us in February, so I am sure we will have the required expertise in school to manage this project moving forward.

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Weald of Kent Grammar School Academy Trust

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If there are any parents or carers who have either logistical experience and could help us source the additional building spaces we will need, or are suitably medically trained to administer testing, do please get in contact via school@wealdgs.org.

We will arrange permissions for testing of students in January once we have a clearer picture of what the programme will look like in practice.

Take care, and thank you for your continued support,

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

Mrs E Bone
Headteacher