



LYDIARD PARK ACADEMY

31st December 2020

Dear Parent

Information regarding the start of Term 3 Monday 4th January 2021

As you may be aware, yesterday the government announced new guidance regarding the beginning of the new term, Monday 4th January. In light of this, at Lydiard Park Academy we intend to implement the following:

Week beginning Monday 4th January

- Key worker and vulnerable children in school
- Years 7-13 at home – remote learning following normal timetable
- Music BTEC examination to go ahead in school on Thursday 7th January
- Testing of all staff and pupils in school to begin (consent required, please see attached registration and consent form)

Week beginning Monday 11th January

- Years 11 and 13 in school – face to face learning and Mock exam week for Year 13
- Years 7-10 and 12 - remote learning following normal timetable
- Key worker and vulnerable children in school
- Testing of all staff and pupils in school (consent required, please see attached registration and consent form)

Week beginning Monday 18th January

- All pupils back in school
- Testing of all staff and pupils in school (consent required, please see attached registration and consent form)

Keyworker Children

If you are a key worker and you would like your child to attend school for the first two weeks of term, please follow the link below to book your child a place. We would appreciate it if you could consider the key worker criteria when you respond.

<https://forms.gle/gjvGMQfH3ydcnucCA>

Vulnerable Children

It is our expectation that vulnerable children attend school from Monday 4th January. The guidance below will help parents determine as to whether their child falls into this category.

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan



Executive Principal: Mr C Zimmerman
Operational Principal: Mr G Pearson
Vice Principal: Miss S Hesten

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ask@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk



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- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
 - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
 - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
 - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
 - those living in temporary accommodation
 - those who are young carers
 - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example, due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
 - care leavers
- other children and young people at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health.

Shielding advice is currently in place in tier 4 areas such as Swindon, and so children deemed clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to attend school.

In school and online learning provision

When children are in school they will follow their normal timetable, remaining in their bubbles, attending different lessons. As there will be a very limited number of pupils on site then we will revert to our normal school times with registration at 8:40am and the end of the day being at 3.00pm. On arrival pupils should initially go to their venue and from there to their tutor base. Catering facilities will be open to those pupils who wish to purchase a meal and a weekly food parcels will be provided for those pupils entitled to a Free School Meal if they are not attending school.

Our expectation is that pupils at home will engage with remote learning, following their usual timetable. Teachers will provide TEAMS lessons and send work through Show My Homework (Satchel:One). If pupils do not engage in a lesson we will contact parents and the pupil will then be asked to come into school from the next day. We have laptops available for loan and a limited number of dongles for those without connectivity so if you require a laptop or a dongle then please contact the school at ask@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk. Not engaging with the lessons will be viewed as an authorised absence.

As per the DFE guidance, we request that all children continue to comply with the rules set out for the tier they are in, and parents help ensure their children are following those rules. That particularly includes those related to mixing with other households when they are not at school and when they are travelling to school.



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Mass Testing of Pupils

During the first week of term we will set up the facility for testing of pupils. A communication will follow regarding the day that your child will be tested. Only those pupils with a completed registration form and consent form (attached) will be tested with a lateral flow test. I would like to thank all parents who filled in my questionnaire at the start of the holidays which indicated that 90% of parents will give consent. Again, I would stress that this is not mandatory. The process has been clarified in that staff and pupils will receive two initial tests 3-5 days apart. Staff will then be tested on a weekly basis and pupils who have been in close contact with a positive case will be tested daily for seven days. If a pupil is a close contact and consent has not been granted then they would need to go home to self-isolate for 10 days. Please see the attached letter and leaflet provided by the NHS for parents and pupils regarding the testing process. Please email consent forms to ask@lydiardparkacademy.org.uk.

I apologise for any inconvenience these new arrangements may cause you but we are required to follow the DFE guidance. If you have any questions regarding the arrangements please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully,

Mr G. Pearson
Principal



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