



# LYDIARD PARK ACADEMY

29<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent

## School Reopening

This week the Prime Minister announced that it will not be possible to resume face-to-face learning immediately after the February half-term and instead hopes it will be safe to commence the reopening of schools and colleges from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March. This is in response to the national public health data and pressure on NHS capacity. I am pleased that this announcement confirmed that schools, as well as students, parents and carers will be given at least two weeks notice to prepare for a return to face-to-face education. With this in mind we will be having a planning day next Wednesday for staff where we will set work for pupils via Show My Homework but there will not be live TEAMS lessons. It is planned that many of the lessons, particularly in KS3, will not be screen based so to allow pupils time away from the computer.

## Half Term

The DfE has confirmed that schools are not expected to remain open to vulnerable children and the children of critical workers, during February half-term, nor to provide lunch parcels or vouchers during that week. Support to families and children outside of term-time will be provided through the [Covid Winter Grant Scheme](#), via the local authority. The school will remain open to vulnerable children and young people and the children of critical workers after February half-term, as it is now. All other pupils will continue to receive their education through TEAMS and Show My Homework. This is in line with the wider national lockdown measures to help minimise the spread of the virus and respond quickly to the new variant.

## Lateral Flow Testing

In yesterday's communication to schools, the DfE flagged up a change to the testing process in secondary schools and colleges. Following new advice, NHS Test and Trace and Public Health England are temporarily pausing the need for a confirmatory PCR test following a positive result with a lateral flow test in secondary schools and colleges. If a pupil or member of staff receives a positive result on a Lateral Flow Test then they will need to isolate for 10 days.



Principal:  
Vice Principal:

Mr G. Pearson  
Miss S. Hesten

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## Sixth Form Interviews

We have begun interviewing pupils in Year 11 for a place in the Sixth Form come September. I have conducted a number of interviews today and have been so impressed with the resilience the pupils are showing at this time. They are not allowing what is happening through this pandemic to dampen their enthusiasm or their aspirations for the future. Their positivity is really heartening at this time and they have really made my week!

As per usual, if there are any other announcements that parents need to be aware of I will be in touch.

I hope you enjoy the weekend.

Kind regards

Mr Pearson



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Vice Principal:



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