

31 December 2020

TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS

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Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your families enjoyed a lovely Christmas despite the difficulties we all face at the moment.

Last night the Government announced that they wish schools to start back later to enable them more time to set up the lateral flow tests in schools. As already stated, we welcome these tests as they will help keep staff and learners safe and keep the academy open during this pandemic.

Having carefully considered the current escalation in cases and the new Tier 4 restrictions in place, we have adapted the plans for the start of term. Please read the following carefully:

Monday 4 January

Inset Day for staff training and lateral flow tests for staff

Tuesday, 5 January

Online learning in place for all learners. All learners must sign into their lessons punctually.

Monday, 11 January

Learners in Y11 and Y13 and apprentices will return to the academy. Lateral Flow Testing will be in place.

Monday, 18 January

All learners will return to the academy. Lateral Flow Testing will be in place.

Throughout the pandemic we have valued family support; we have already received a large volume of returned consent forms and I thank you in advance for your support with starting the term safely for all. Families will need to be prepared to pick up learners should they require an additional PCR COVID test, carried out at a COVID testing site. In addition, please ensure that learners are feeling well and have a normal temperature before they leave home. If they are feeling unwell, they should remain at home and take a PCR COVID test at a test site. The lateral flow tests are designed to pick up asymptomatic cases. I would also encourage learners to take a PCR COVID test before they return to the academy as an additional precaution.

The lateral flow testing programme is voluntary. However, considering the current national picture, I would encourage all learners to take part to keep your family and the academy community safe.

The JCB Academy staff will be delivering live lessons to groups who are working from home from Tuesday, 5 January. Please ensure learners log in promptly to these lessons.

If you are a Key Worker and need provision at the academy for your son/daughter due to work commitments, please email office@jcbacademy.com by Monday, 4 January.

The academy will contact parents/carers of vulnerable learners on Monday to discuss arrangements.

External examinations for Y11 and Y13 learners will take place as planned.

I thank you for your patience and support and I wish you and your family a happy and safe New Year,

Yours sincerely



Mrs J McGuirk
Principal