

5 January 2021

## TO ALL PARENTS/CARERS

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for your patience. I held this letter off until we had heard the latest government advice last night. Sadly, Coronavirus cases are rising sharply across the country and the government has announced a new national lockdown to protect lives. This new guidance dictates that schools will remain closed for learners until at least the February half term.

The following will now take place:

- All learners will access live lessons from home with effect from today.
- Live lessons will follow learners' normal timetables with standard break times as follows:

08:30-08:45	Registration of learners for session 1
08.45-09.35	Session 1
09.35-10.00	<i>Break</i>
10.00-10.50	Session 2
11.00-11.50	Session 3
12.00-12.50	Session 4
12.50-13.30	<i>Lunch</i>
13.30-14.20	Session 5
14.30-15.20	Session 6

- Vulnerable children and the children of critical workers can attend the academy to access the online live lessons taught by their teacher remotely. If you have not already made arrangements regarding this, please contact your son's/daughter's mentor as soon as possible. Further details regarding the definition of critical workers is attached and can also be found at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#vulnerable-children-and-young-people>

- There will be alternative arrangements for exams this summer. Over the coming days I will be sharing with you further information regarding qualifications due to take place in the summer.

I have attached details of how learners should access live lessons. Learners will need to follow the link to their lesson which will be available on Google Classroom five minutes before the lesson starts. We thank you for your support and ask you to ensure learners comply with the safeguarding and operation rules for online learning:

- Learners must sign into their lessons punctually and use their full name so they can be legally registered as attending school.
- Learners must be suitably dressed.
- Learners' laptops should be used in an appropriate area of the home.
- Learner microphones and webcams need to be switched off unless they have been asked to contribute to the lesson or answer their name in the register.
- Learners must comply with all JCB Academy policies including safeguarding, behaviour and attendance.

As Principal of The JCB Academy I can say that the whole staff body is deeply disappointed not to be welcoming learners back next week. However, we are determined to maximise learning and teaching and will offer live lessons to learners. Over a period of learning, learners will be provided with Do Now activities, teacher modelling and the opportunity to co-construct answers with teachers before carrying out independent tasks. Learners are expected to complete independent tasks for teachers to assess and provide constructive feedback. We will measure learner engagement not through just signing into sessions, but also the quality and quantity of work that is returned. If you have any comments or concerns about online learning, then please contact your son's/daughter's Head of House.

It is paramount that our young people are not disadvantaged and their future next steps are achieved. Learners who take responsibility for their learning, start their lessons punctually, listen and ask questions and take time to carry out independent tasks will be in the best position to take the next steps in their life. Our Learning Support Team are available to speak with learners about any issues they are facing and learners are encouraged to communicate with their mentors. We are very aware that learners will find the next seven weeks a challenge and we are here to support them. Additional information from the pastoral team regarding supporting mental health and wellbeing will be shared with learners and with parents/carers.

I will be writing to Y11 and Y13 learners and their parents/carers as soon as I hear from the examination boards regarding the exams scheduled for this week and next week.

Once again I thank you for your support, these measures are needed to keep families safe until the pandemic is under control.

Yours sincerely



Mrs J McGuirk  
Principal