

31st December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I know that you will be well aware of the many rapid changes that schools are being asked to accommodate at the present time, and the very short notice we are given when these changes are announced.

I would not normally contact you during the Christmas break but Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State for Education made a statement in the House of Commons yesterday where he outlined yet more changes to the start of the new term which do have a considerable effect on our students *in years 7 and above*.

The arrangements for the start of the spring term 2021 at JCSC are now as follows:

- Monday 4th January is one of our planned teacher training days, and **no students should attend**.
- **Years 5 and 6** will all return on Tuesday 5th January and begin the new term as planned.
- **Years 11 and 13** will now return to school on Monday 11th January.
- **Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12** will now return to school on Monday 18th January.

In addition, children classed as vulnerable, those with EHCPs, and the children of key workers in year 7 and above may attend school from Tuesday 5th January where they will be supervised as they access their online learning in one of our ICT suites.

Later today all parents should receive a link to an online form that should be completed if you are a key worker or the parent/carer of a child who may be classed as vulnerable and you wish to use this service. Parents of children with EHCPs will be contacted directly by Mrs Johnson and her team.

You should not send your child back unless this form has been completed and you have had confirmation from school.

Online learning will be provided for all classes for years 7 and above from January 5th until they return to school for their learning 'in person' – this will begin with a tutor period at the start of each day, and we will give you more details about this on Monday. To be clear, this is not an extension to the holiday but a different form of learning and we fully expect all lessons to be engaged with and all work completed.

The Business Studies sixth form students who have an exam on Wednesday 6th January and a preparation session on Tuesday 5th January should attend both those sessions as usual – we will contact those students directly on Monday with further details.

Sixth form mock exams for GCSE resit and Y13 students that were scheduled for next week will now take place during the week beginning 11th January. We will send the students a revised timetable early next week.

Additionally, there are some year 12 students who have Cambridge Technical exams in the week beginning 11th January. These tests will go ahead as planned, with those students attending school in person to sit them.

Thank you once again for your understanding and ongoing support. I will contact you again early next week with a further update and our plans for routine coronavirus testing in school.
Happy New Year and let's hope for a *much* better year in 2021!

Best wishes,



Neil Rodgers
Executive Headteacher