



THE ECCLESBOURNE SCHOOL

'Learning Together For The Future'

Head Teacher
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Phased Return/Covid-19 Testing

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday afternoon the government announced further changed arrangements for a phased return to school after the Christmas holiday. In addition, as you know, schools are to prepare to offer rapid covid-19 testing to all students and staff from the first week of term. To help schools to prepare for this new responsibility, the government have decided to delay the return of students by a further week. The revised dates are as follows:

Key dates

- Monday 4th January INSET day. No students in school.
- Tuesday 5th January Return to School: vulnerable students and children of critical workers only.
Years 7-13 to access remote learning via Show My Homework.
- Monday 11th January Years 11 and 13 and vulnerable students/children of critical workers in school. Years 7-10 and Year 12 to access remote learning via Show My Homework.
- Monday 18th January All students return to school.

There are BTEC examinations taking place during the week commencing 11th January and these will proceed as scheduled.

If you are a critical worker or your child has an EHCP and you would like to request provision for them in school from 5th January, please inform school by completing this form <https://bit.ly/3h13RtK>. This will help us to plan our provision. Students should attend in full school uniform and bring a packed lunch.

Parents of students in receipt of free school meals will receive a voucher to the value of £30 (£15 per week). This voucher will be delivered electronically via text or email through the Wonde system.

Covid-19 Testing

The government has instructed schools to set up testing centres on site and to prepare to offer all secondary-age pupils and staff lateral flow device tests. Tests will be made available to each year group before they return to lessons. Tests will not be compulsory, and students will be able to return to school on the dates set out above regardless of whether they are tested. Parental consent forms will be required for any student who wishes to be tested. Thank you to those parents who have already provided a response via Parent Pay. If you have not yet done this, we would ask that you do so no later than 4pm on Tuesday 5th January. We will write to you early next week with further information on the schedule for testing.

Reporting a confirmed case of Covid-19

Should your child test positive for Covid-19 before their scheduled date for returning to school please email us at covid@ecclesbourne.derbyshire.sch.uk adding the following information: child's name, date of birth, date last in school, date of first symptoms and date on which the positive test was taken.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in the Ecclesbourne community a very happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

James McNamara

Head Teacher