



St Benedict's College

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30 November 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

In recent weeks we have seen an increase in the number of students and staff testing positive for COVID 19. The recent reduction in staffing and the significant shortage of substitute teachers is currently impacting negatively on our ability to provide adequate cover for absent colleagues. In this context we have decided, with reluctance, that for the next two weeks we will be introducing temporary remote learning for Years 8-11.

Years 8-11 will be required to work from home as follows:

Date	Year group working from home
Wednesday 1 December	Year 11
Thursday 2 December	Year 9
Friday 3 December	Year 10
Monday 6 December	Year 8
Wednesday 8 December	Year 11
Thursday 9 December	Year 9
Friday 10 December	Year 10

Teachers will set the work that is to be completed remotely in their lessons and this will be uploaded to Google Classroom.

Separate arrangements will be in place for Year 12. Year 12s this week have completed their GCSE/Essential Skills Maths exams and are preparing to complete their GCSE/Essential Skills English exams therefore 100% attendance is required from them.

Next week, we will be moving in to internal mock examinations. These assessments are potentially very important as they could contribute to Centre Determined Grades should this be required in the future. To that end, we are going to give Year 12 two days' study leave to prepare for these assessments as we recognise the considerable pressure that they have been under with Maths, English and Science modules.

Year 12s schedule for next week will be as follows:

Date	Year group working from home
Monday 6 December	Home Learning
Tuesday 7 December	Home Learning
Wednesday 8 December	Exam Timetable
Thursday 9 December	Exam Timetable
Friday 10 December	Exam Timetable

The Year 11 Parent Teacher Meeting that was planned for Tuesday 14 December has been postponed and will be re-arranged in term 2. Details will be issued in due course.

Finally, if we are to control the spread of the virus within the school, it is important, that students continue to observe the mitigations we have in place:

- (i) students with symptoms should not attend school;
- (ii) students should take lateral flow tests twice weekly to check for asymptomatic cases;
- (iii) students should take a PCR test if they have symptoms or have a positive lateral flow result;
- (iv) students should remember to bring in and wear their own masks in school as well as on all public transport;
- (v) students should remember to wash their hands and sanitise desks regularly;
- (vi) students should minimise physical contact and observe social distancing where possible.

The Health and Safety of all students and staff remain our absolute priority so we thank you for your understanding and apologise for the inconvenience these temporary arrangements may cause.

Yours sincerely

Catriona McAteer
PRINCIPAL