



Winterton Community Academy

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Headteacher – Mr K Rowlands

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5th January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers,

May I first of all take the opportunity to wish you a happy new year and to say thank you for your ongoing patience and support as we continue to respond to the ever changing challenges that are presented to us throughout this pandemic.

Following the most recent government announcement, schools have been instructed to close and revert to online teaching and learning with immediate effect for the majority of pupils. As previously communicated, where alternative provision is required, notably due to key-worker commitments, then arrangements can be made through our school reception.

We have this week been making plans for the mass-testing of pupils and staff within the school. It is our intention to continue to build this capacity so that we are able to test those pupils that are still attending. This is not a straight forward process and therefore requires some time to do so, however we hope to have this in place over the next couple of days and your patience on this matter is greatly appreciated.

As a result of the enhanced restrictions that have been put in place, we are now working to deliver a schedule of remote learning for all pupils, effective from Wednesday 6th January. Pupils will follow their normal timetable and work will be set or scheduled in accordance with this. Please note, we will not be delivering PSHE lessons during this time and there will also be no tutorial provision in place. Pupils can use this time to complete other work at their discretion.

This work will be delivered through a combination of online zoom lessons, independent tasks and online materials and will be co-ordinated by each individual teacher and communicated to their classes via email. Where possible we will advise pupils of what they will be doing for the week in advance and any resources or links for online lessons will be shared the night before. I have requested that teachers record their zoom lessons and that we also share these recordings with students, if for any reason they have difficulty accessing or need to go back and revise any aspect of the lesson.

We will be taking registers during this time and it is important to note that whilst remote learning is different, it is a statutory requirement for children and young people to engage in their education. Where this is difficult to do so, we will work to support families and in the first instance, try to find a supportive solution to ensure that your child can access their learning.

To support their learning and progress, we believe it is important for pupils to be able to complete their work in their normal exercise books. This gives them ownership of their work, allows them to make connections with past learning and ensure that they have pride in the work that they are doing and that it is meaningful. To make this possible, it is a logistical challenge, however we feel it is important that we try and do this. Therefore, we will gather their books within the school and make them available for collection between 12:30pm and 5pm on Thursday 7th January and Friday 8th January. Please ensure that your child does not miss any online lessons in order to collect their books as we will remain open until 5pm.

This is a progressive step for us as a school, building on the experiences we had last summer, to try and ensure that we are giving our pupils the best educational provision possible. No doubt, there will be some challenges to overcome at both ends, however I am confident that by working together we can ensure that it is a positive experience for pupils. Your support in working with us and ensuring that your child engages in their learning is greatly appreciated and is absolutely necessary, we cannot do this on our own.

In terms of year 11, it was apparent that there will be an impact on examinations in the summer. I must stress that this does not mean that they have been cancelled. Whilst there remains a great deal of uncertainty, it is important to reassure pupils in year 11 that the work that they are doing now is

absolutely critical and will make a direct contribution to their end of year outcomes. Please encourage your child to stay focussed and continue to work hard, whether their grades become centre assessed or through external examinations, they will receive an outcome that is based on the work that they are doing. Please also reassure them, that it is our absolute commitment to ensure that our pupils get the grades that they deserve and this was very much the case last year. They just need to remain calm and focused and work closely with their teachers on developing their skills and knowledge.

Thank you again for your support and I hope that you and your family are able to remain safe throughout this period.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Rowlands', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

K Rowlands
Headteacher