

17th December 2020

Arrangements for the first week back after Christmas

Dear parent/carer,

I am so sorry to be writing to you again this term but as you may have seen in the news, the DfE have produced some new guidance for schools today, leaving us one day to plan for the start of next term. Whilst not everything has been made clear to schools, I wanted to share with you at the earliest opportunity the impact it is going to have.

The DfE have come up with a 3 strand approach:

- Supporting schools to set a regular testing programme to test staff and the close contacts of staff and students who test positive for the virus.
- Reducing the number of children in secondary schools and colleges for the first full week of January, with vulnerable children, children of critical workers and those in exam cohorts, receiving face to face education, with others learning
- Offering secondary schools and colleges help, support and facilities to test as many pupils as possible as they resume face-to-face education.

This means that in the week beginning the 4th of January, year 10 and year 11 students will be in school receiving face to face teaching and students in years 7, 8 and 9 will be taught remotely.

As you will see, they mention that all staff and students will receive tests on their return. However, they haven't yet mentioned when the tests will arrive and how we are going to be able to do this in the first week back.

Staff will be tested weekly and students who are identified as close contacts of someone testing positive, can be tested daily for 7 consecutive days and remain in school if they test negative. This testing will be optional but those not consenting would be the subject to the normal 10-day self-isolation.

To carry out the testing in school we will require additional staff. If you would be interested in helping us out, please email help@tanfieldschool.co.uk with your name and contact details.

Remote learning instructions for years 7 and 8

- Students can access their work by going to their advisory Google Classroom e.g. Class2020-8CRY
- To access Google Classroom students go to classroom.google.com and log in with their school email address and password.
- Students will follow their normal timetabled lessons and advisory meetings (These will start 10 minutes later than normal). Their timetable will be posted at the top of the 'Classwork' page in their advisory Google Classroom.
- There will be a live Google Meet link for every lesson and advisory meeting, which will allow all students to be able to access the live lesson delivered by their teacher. Lesson resources will also be posted for them under the lesson topic heading on the 'Classwork' page.
- Homework can be accessed, as normal, in their Homework Google Classroom.

Remote learning instructions for year 9

This is the same as the year 7 and 8, except that they access their work by going to their lesson Google Classroom e.g. 10DBs1-C20

More information can be found at:

https://sites.google.com/tanfieldschool.co.uk/remoteeducation/bubble-orindividual-si/bubble-si?authuser=0

Finally, I will contact you again in the final days of the holiday to update you on any further developments. Until then, I wish you and your families a merry and safe Christmas and a happy New Year.

Take care.

Mr S Clough Headteacher