



18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

### Returning to school in January

Yesterday evening we were told by the Department for Education (DfE) that there will be a change in arrangements for the return to school in January. We apologise for the late notification of these changes; we are sharing this with you as quickly as we can.

In summary the arrangements are now as follows:

- We already have an INSET day in place for all students on 4<sup>th</sup> January
- Students in an examination year (Year 11) will return to school as planned on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.
- Students whose parents are key workers or who are determined by the DfE as 'vulnerable' are to attend school as planned on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Please check the attached additional information provided for further guidance on this.
- All other students (Year 7 – 10) will have their normal lessons from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> until Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January **but delivered remotely**. They are required to return to school in person on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

The DfE has explained that the purpose of this change is to allow time to set up coronavirus testing for students within secondary schools. The reason for more testing is that it will mean that it will be possible to identify those with the virus but without symptoms so that they can self-isolate, minimising the spread of the virus and the disruption caused. The goal is to keep as many students as possible in school beyond the start of term.

You can read the latest guidance from the DfE by searching 'gov.uk return in January' or by clicking here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021>

### Coronavirus testing within school

I am afraid we do not yet know the details about how the planned coronavirus testing within schools will be carried out, nor when this will be ready at our Academy. As we learn more from the DfE we will develop our local plan, and then share these arrangements with you before your child is asked to receive a test.

### What do I do now?

If your child has a confirmed case of coronavirus before the 24<sup>th</sup> December, please contact us urgently ([Yourarena@oasisarena.org](mailto:Yourarena@oasisarena.org)) so that we can notify the others in their bubble.

Principal - Thomas Raymond

Oasis Academy Arena  
Albert Road, South Norwood  
London  
SE25 4QL

Email: [info@oasisarena.org](mailto:info@oasisarena.org) Tel: 020 8240 6700  
[www.oasisacademyarena.org](http://www.oasisacademyarena.org)



If your child has a confirmed case of coronavirus after the 24<sup>th</sup> December, please email us at [Yourarena@oasisarena.org](mailto:Yourarena@oasisarena.org), so that we can ensure that they self-isolate for the required time before returning to school.

If you are a key worker or your child/ren meets the DfE criteria listed in the guidance provided with this letter, please ensure that your child/ren attend school on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. Please confirm they will attend by emailing [jane.dewhurst@oasisarena.org](mailto:jane.dewhurst@oasisarena.org).

If your child is being asked to access remote learning from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January, please see the guidance on remote learning below.

### **Online Learning/Remote Learning**

We will be using Microsoft Teams to deliver remote learning lessons for Year 7 – 10. Further details will follow prior to January.

We look forward to seeing Year 11 and all other eligible students at the Academy on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January at 8.45am, and all other students online. We will be together again as a whole school (in our usual bubbles and implementing all the usual coronavirus prevention procedures), on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January.

Once again, please be assured that, as we receive more information from the DfE regarding coronavirus testing, we will plan arrangements at the Academy and be in touch with you prior to your child being asked to receive a test.

Thank you as always for your support of the Academy and the staff who are doing all they can to help keep everyone safe. We wish you all a peaceful and healthy Christmas break, and send best wishes for 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Thomas Raymond  
Principal

Principal - Thomas Raymond

Oasis Academy Arena  
Albert Road, South Norwood  
London  
SE25 4QL

Email: [info@oasisarena.org](mailto:info@oasisarena.org) Tel: 020 8240 6700  
[www.oasisacademyarena.org](http://www.oasisacademyarena.org)