



Smithdon High School
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Ref: JHi/AGi/LT

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Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Urgent information regarding changes to the new term

As you may have seen from the media coverage, the Government yesterday announced changes to the start of the new term in January. What this means is that:

Monday 4 January – INSET Day – school is closed to ALL students

Tuesday 5 January

- Year 11 return to school as normal from Tuesday 5 January
- Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 – Online learning for the week starting Tuesday 5 January

Monday 11 January – ALL students return to school as normal

Students studying online are expected to follow their school timetable while at home; work will be set via google classroom for each lesson they would have attended in school. Due to limitations on our internet capacity it will not be possible for all lessons to be delivered live online. Lessons will therefore consist of either tasks set online, recorded lessons or live lessons.

Vulnerable students in Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 and the children of key workers will be able to come to school. If you would like a place in school please complete this Google Form Survey <https://forms.gle/1zsox033S4r2wg2WP7> by **4pm on Monday 21 December**, detailing your situation, please ensure you include your child's full name and year group.

If you are concerned that your child does not have adequate access to the technology required for online learning, please also complete the survey above (<https://forms.gle/1zsox033S4r2wg2WP7>) and we will work with you to see how we can help.

We appreciate this change comes at short notice and will cause some families inconvenience; we are working with the same notice so ask for your understanding as we work to get everything in place. The Government has taken this decision to protect our families from the rising number of Covid-19 cases and we must do all we can to keep everyone safe.

You may have also heard in the news that students will be offered regular Covid-19 testing in school. At this point we have no details on how this will operate but I will contact you again as soon as we have more information.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely

Mr J Hirst
Headteacher

Mrs A Gibbins
Head of School

