

Moorside High School
Cellarhead Road
Werrington
Staffordshire
ST9 0HP
Tel: 01782 551200
Fax: 01782 559023
www.moorsidehigh.net
Headteacher Mr S N Clarke

SCL/LJJ

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you will have seen in the news, the government have now changed their plans for the start of the spring term, due to the escalating COVID situation.

An additional reason for the delay in the start of term is so the school can set itself up as a mass testing centre for both staff and students, using the Lateral Flow Tests which provide results in 30 minutes. This is designed as a national means of containment of the pandemic and to protect children's education. More information will be sent out to parents during the week beginning 4th January 2021. We will also be sending out consent forms during that week to seek permission for your child to be part of the testing. Please wait until you have received this before you contact the school for further information .

Only Vulnerable children and Children of Critical Workers will be expected to attend from Tuesday 5th January 2021. Mr Maher will have contacted all parents of vulnerable children before Tuesday and we now have a list of children of key workers following the letter we sent out at the end of last term so we know who to expect in school that week onwards. Just as a reminder, the criteria for Critical workers are in the link below <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>.

There is unlikely to be any bus or coach service in the first week so if that causes you any problems then please contact school on Monday 4th January or e-mail Mr Maher using mmaher@moorside.staffs.sch.uk.

Year 11 will now not return until Monday 11th January 2021. From Tuesday 5th January to Friday 8th January 2021 Year 11 staff will be delivering timetabled lessons through TEAMS.

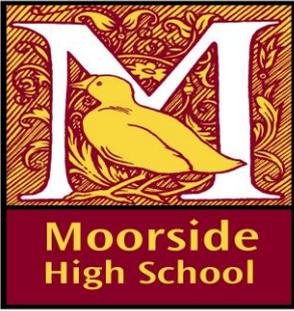
Although many students have now experienced online lessons, please be aware that it may take a few minutes for pupils to access the lesson whilst the teacher is setting up. The lessons will be streamed from the classroom and pupils will be able to see the 'live' lesson and take part via the 'chat' function on TEAMS. Please be advised that students must conduct themselves appropriately in the TEAMS meeting. We expect students to behave online as they would in class. Inappropriate behaviour will not be tolerated and will be dealt with according to the behaviour policy. Pupils must ensure they have cameras and microphones turned off for this. Attendance is compulsory to ensure your child does not fall behind.

If your child is in year 11 and receives a Free School Meal then a lunch pack will be provided by school which would need to be collected from the school site for the first week. Further information will be provided on 4th January 2021.

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Years 7-10 pupils will now not return to school until Monday 18th January.

In the week beginning Tuesday 5th January 2021 Year 7-10 pupils will be expected to complete the work which has been set on the school website whilst we set up as up as a Lateral Flow Testing Centre and train staff how to administer and process these tests. **From Monday 11th January 2021** staff will be delivering online lessons via TEAMS for all classes, in accordance with their personal school timetables. All pupils already have TEAMS log-ins and will receive invitations to click onto for each lesson. These can be accessed through any mobile device such as a mobile phone, tablet, laptop or computer. The only exceptions to this delivery will be core PE lessons and Art lessons in years 7 and 8, where tasks will be set to download from the website due to the practical nature of these subjects.

We do have a limited number of devices in schools we could loan to families if they cannot access work. If you did not indicate on the last letter that you do not have a device then please e-mail school using office@moorside.staffs.sch.uk.

If your child is in Years 7-10 and they are entitled to Free School Meals then during the first two weeks from the 5th January 2021 we will be providing a daily sandwich collection from school for those pupils who are eligible. (Further collection information to follow on 4th January 2021).

The coach and bus service will resume as normal from 11th January 2021 when Year 11 return to school.

The Year 10 GCSE Construction group (7 pupils) have a GCSE examination on Thursday 7th January 2021. This exam **will proceed as normal** and students will need to attend school for this examination in uniform with all the necessary equipment required for the exam. We will contact these pupils by text with the specific arrangements.

May I wish you a Happy New Year and I hope you can understand the reasons for us having to change the plans for the start of term in light of government instructions.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher

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