



18th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As term ends, there is no let up in the information that we are receiving around Covid 19 and its impact on schools. This letter has been divided into three sections to provide you with the latest updates:

1. Staggered Return to School Information
2. Covid Testing in School Information
3. General Information

1. Staggered Return To School

The government yesterday announced that there will be a staggered return for some secondary school students after the Christmas break. Please see below the outline for our students return at Nishkam High School, Birmingham:

Students in years 11 and 13 – all students will attend school in person from the start of term on Tuesday 5th January 2021.

Vulnerable children and children of critical workers – will also be able to attend school from Tuesday 5th January 2021. To allow us to plan for these students please email Miss Voutsinou at s.voutsinou@nishkamschools.org if your child fits either category and needs to attend school.

(Information on critical workers can be found via this weblink: - [Government guidance - critical workers](#))

Students in years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 – all students in these year groups will return to school on Monday 11th January 2021.

Our students are now used to accessing lessons and resources remotely. They will be able to access resources from the Microsoft Teams platform during this period, up to Friday 9th January 2021. We will make a further announcement with more details on Monday 4th January 2021, if not before; please look at the school Facebook page or the school website for all announcements.

Please note: vocational exams scheduled for the start of January will still take place.

2. Covid Testing in Schools

Nishkam School Trust have opted to participate in this government initiative. According to the limited government information, pupils will be offered rapid testing in order to reduce Covid transmission. Pupils will be offered two rapid tests, two to three days apart, with any positive cases being confirmed with a lab-based PCR test and following government guidance [I will insert the link here].

We must have consent from the parents of pupils that wish their child to be tested. Please Ctrl+click on the link below to complete the consent form by midday on Monday, January 4 2021 in order for us to plan ahead: [CV19 Rapid Testing Consent Form](#). This letter is available on our website and FaceBook page and therefore all links should be accessible.

P.T.O

We are remarkably short of detailed guidance from the government on this matter. You will be aware that the announcement from Gavin Williamson, Education Secretary, was only issued yesterday (Thursday, 17th December 2020). We hope that we will receive further support and guidance from the government regarding the details surrounding the planning and roll out of the tests imminently. As stated, above, we will communicate the impact of any further guidance to you, as soon as possible, via the school Facebook page and the school website.

3. General Information

We appreciate that these continue to be uncertain times for many of us; however, I kindly request that you consider those members of your family that are higher risk, particularly if elderly or with chronic illnesses, before meeting with them between Wednesday, December 23 to Sunday, December 27. If you are to meet, please consider keeping the windows open and maintain social distancing. Please kindly avoid meeting any more than three other households as per government guidelines.

As per our previous communication could you kindly contact us via email [c.deeks@nishkamschools.org] to advise of any positive Covid cases for any of our pupils up to Thursday, December 24, 2020. The email address will be checked on a daily basis.

When contacting the school about any positive test results please provide the following information:

- The date symptoms started (or if there were no symptoms)
- The date the test was taken (not the date you received the result)
- The date your child's self-isolation ends

The school will then follow the guidance from Public Health England and contact families where appropriate.

Finally, after all of that, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year and thank you once more for all your unstinting support of our school.

Kind Regards



Mr. D Kearns
Principal