

18th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Many of you will have seen today's announcement that the government is asking secondary schools to make some changes to their provision from the week commencing 4th January 2021. That guidance can be [read in full here](#).

I have already written to you outlining the steps you should take in the event of your child receiving a positive Covid-19 test result in the days up to 23rd December. I am including those details and instructions at the end of this letter as well for ease of reference. We have also updated our Coronavirus section of our website – all relevant information regarding notifying us of positive tests can be found [on this page](#).

The government announced on Tuesday that it intends to offer all schools with secondary age pupils the chance to test pupils and staff in-school from the week commencing 4th January. The arrangements for setting up, staffing and administering these tests are not yet clear enough for me to share details of how this will operate with you. However, we will endeavour to implement that offer and provide the best possible opportunities for safe testing to take place.

Yesterday the government announced that they are directing secondary schools to phase the return to normal schooling in January. This is to allow, where possible, students to be tested during the week commencing 4th January; it is also intended to limit the risk of asymptomatic transmission of Covid-19 in school following the Christmas break.

This means that on Wednesday 6th, Thursday 7th and Friday 8th January, students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will not be expected in school. Some Year 12 students will need to attend the exams they have scheduled that first week and Mr Steels will contact those students and parent directly to make sure they are aware. Lessons will run remotely and live, following the usual timetable, over MS Teams. In most cases, these lessons will be run by their usual teacher. Most students and families are now familiar with this process, but guidance and support can be found on our website: <https://www.elycollege.com/remotelarning>

The only exceptions to this are vulnerable children and the children of critical workers. As was the case during the national lockdown from March-June, these children will be welcome to attend school. If they do attend school, they will be supervised in an IT suite and directed to engage in the remote learning programme offer following their usual timetable. The criteria used to identify vulnerable children and critical workers [can be found here](#). Can I ask that if you wish your child or children to attend college on those three days you notify us by filling [in this form](#) by Monday 4th January.

If you are in any doubt about whether your child is eligible to attend school, or if you are worried about how your child will access remote lessons, please contact your child's House office on 4th January for advice and support. Alternatively, please email office@elycollege.co.uk and we will respond as soon as possible.

Students in Years 11 and 13 will be expected to attend school and their lessons as usual from Wednesday 6th January. Students in Year 12 who are due to sit exams will be able to attend school for those exams only.

Fortunately, we had always planned for Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th January to be INSET (teacher-training) days. This limits the number of days students will be expected to switch to remote learning from home and gives us a little more time to try and arrange some of the testing arrangements the government want to see schools introduce.

We are clearly in a very difficult phase of our national struggle with Covid-19. I am truly sorry to have to write to you about further reductions to normal school provision at such short notice. We are well prepared to provide lessons of a high quality remotely, and I am confident that the impact on students' learning will be minimal. As we have done for so long now, our college community will get through these challenges together.

I will write again with further details in the new year and would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and New Year.

Yours faithfully



Simon Warburton
Principal

Symptoms began on (or date of positive test if asymptomatic)	Between Monday 14 th – Friday 18 th December	Saturday 19 th December	Sunday 20 th December	Monday 21 st December – Monday 4 th January
Action Required	Parents Inform college immediately. College will notify individuals within respective bubble who may have come into contact. Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 14 days.	Parents Inform college immediately. College will notify individuals within respective bubbles who may have come into contact on Thursday 17 th and Friday 18 th December. Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 14 days.	Parents Inform college immediately. College will notify individuals within respective bubbles who may have come into contact on Friday 18 th December. Notified individuals will have to self-isolate for 14 days.	Unless testing was delayed following onset of symptoms, the student will not have been in college, therefore there is no need to contact us.
	In the event of a confirmed case between the close of college on Friday 18 th December and Thursday 24 th December, the office email is to be the only means of contacting the college. This is checked frequently throughout the day for any communication related to contact tracing: covid19@elycollege.co.uk			
Parental Responsibility	Parents to notify close contact family and friends and follow advice as per NHS Covid-19 guidelines http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/			