

18 December 2020

Dear parent/carer,

As you may be aware the government announced yesterday that, from January 2021, they are offering increased, rapid covid-19 testing for secondary-age pupils in schools across the country. In order to do this they are stating that, for the first week of the new term, secondary schools should offer remote learning to all but vulnerable, key worker and exam-year pupils.

I need to confirm that this **will not apply** to any of our schools in the Trust. All our schools will open for normal attendance as expected from Monday 4th January 2021 (or 5th January if the school has previously informed you of an Inset/Training day on Monday 4th).

We are awaiting further information from the Department for Education regarding the testing regime for secondary age pupils, and how this will apply and may be administered in our settings. We expect to be able to send you further information on this in the first week of the new term. Please be assured that any testing that may be proposed for pupils would only ever be progressed following full information being shared with yourselves and full consent being given.

We have all faced many challenges over the last few months, but I wish to thank all our pupils, families and staff, for their outstanding support and for how they have responded and adapted to new ways of working and learning. This has been an incredibly difficult year for all of us and we share the hope that, with the advances in vaccination and testing, 2021 will be brighter, happier, and healthier for all.

Finally, I would like to wish all parents, carers and families a safe and merry Christmas and a hopeful, happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Julian Scholefield
Chief Executive Officer
Esteem Multi-Academy Trust