

31st December 2020

Dear parent/carer,

As I mentioned to you in the letter dated 18th December 2020, the Government announced that there will be a staggered start for secondary schools for the first week in January and also there will be the introduction of rapid testing for schools.

There was an additional announcement made by Gavin Williamson, Education Secretary, yesterday afternoon which explained that the staggered start will now be over a slightly longer period.

w/c 4th January - *Vulnerable children and children of critical workers will return for on site provision.

w/c 11th January - Exam year groups - Year 11 and Year 13 to return to school.

w/c 18th January - All year groups to return to school.

In light of this, there is information contained in this letter that is relevant to vulnerable children and children of critical workers, Year 11 and Year 13 students and then all other students.

The Government have said that

- remote education be prioritised for pupils in exam year groups (primarily years 11 and 13) during the week commencing 4 January
- remote education being provided for all other pupils from 11 January,

This will be delivered via Google Classroom. All students have had lessons this term in how to access this online learning.

If accessing Google Classroom is a problem, then please let Anna Clarke, Assistant Headteacher for Teaching and Learning know via anna.clarke@iwef.org.uk

Vulnerable* children and children of critical workers.

These children are all expected to access on-site education provision from the start of term, which is Tuesday, 5th January (Monday 4th January is a pre-planned Development Day). Please can we ask that you email anna.mursell@iwef.org.uk if your child will be attending school as part of this. We need to know:

School the student attends: Carisbrooke College, Medina College or The Island VI Form

Student name:

Student year group:

Reason for attending on site provision: Vulnerable or critical worker

If critical worker, the role of the parent/carer

All students who are attending on site schooling will need to be in full school uniform.

All students attending school for w/c 4th January and w/c 11th January will need to bring a packed lunch with them. Students entitled to free school meals will be emailed a £15 voucher, via Wonde, as was the case for the Christmas break. We would then ask that if these students are attending school, this voucher is used to provide the packed lunch.

Year 11 and Year 13 students.

All Year 11 and Year 13 students are expected to be in school as normal from 8.45am on Monday., 11th January, and will have lessons delivered following their normal timetable.

All Year 11 students will need to be in full school uniform, with appropriate equipment, ready to learn.

The canteen will be open as normal for all Year 11 students to purchase food at break and at lunchtime.

All other students.

All other students will return to school on Monday 18th January in full school uniform, with appropriate equipment, ready to learn.

Full canteen facilities will be available to all students from Monday 18th January.

Message for all students

When students start to come back to school, we ask that for any students due to attend school, you report any absences as normal by contacting the attendance staff on the usual contact numbers.

Lateral Flow Device Testing for COVID-19

Also accompanying this letter is a letter regarding the lateral flow device COVID-19 testing, a consent form and some information leaflets, all of which must be read, understood and the registration form and consent form returned to school. Testing will start with staff and *vulnerable children and children of critical workers, the following week to students in Year 11 and 13, and the following week it will then be rolled out to all other students.

Testing will then be available for students as well as staff to conduct daily testing for those identified as close contacts of staff or students that have tested positive - this ensures that they do not need to isolate and are able to continue to benefit from high quality, face to face education. Anyone who is not wanting to take part in the close contact testing, will need to isolate at home for 10 days.

Please do complete the necessary attached paperwork. Without this, we are unable to carry out the test.

Please note, the following points are of vital importance.

This Lateral Flow Test is not for students or staff who are displaying symptoms of COVID-19 or have a member of their household who has tested positive or is displaying symptoms. Anyone who is displaying symptoms must stay at home, along with the rest of their household, arrange a test through [Get a free NHS test to check if you have coronavirus - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) or by phoning 119 and follow the stay at home Government guidance.

Also, the offer of the lateral flow testing does not change the need to continue to follow previous guidance. We must all continue to

- Wash hands with soap and warm water/use hand sanitiser regularly.
- Wear face coverings when not in a classroom inside the buildings.
- Maintain social distancing wherever possible, including two metres from staff.
- Keep rooms well ventilated.

I will contact you again with an update, as and when more Government guidance is released.



Matthew Parr-Burman
Executive Headteacher

**Vulnerable children and young people include those who:*

- *are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child*
- *have an education, health and care (EHC) plan*
- *have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:*
 - *children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services*
 - *adopted children or children on a special guardianship order*
 - *those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')*
 - *those living in temporary accommodation*
 - *those who are young carers*
 - *those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example, due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)*
 - *care leavers*
 - *other children and young people at the provider and local authority's discretion including pupils who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health*