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# THE THOMAS ADAMS SCHOOL, WEM

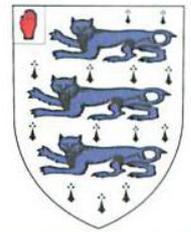
incorporating

ADAMS COLLEGE SIXTH FORM CENTRE

ADAMS HOUSE (BOARDING)

Headteacher: Mark Cooper BA (Hons)

Deputy Headteacher: Gavin Sterry BSc (Hons) MA



31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have had a lovely Christmas and have managed to remain safe and well.

Following the announcements from the government yesterday, I am writing to explain the way we will start the new term. This will be staggered and there will be a mixture of remote and on-site learning. If your child has any issues accessing Teams or digital devices please contact Mr McAleavey on [tm@thomasadams.net](mailto:tm@thomasadams.net)

Upon their return to school, all pupils will be tested twice following the government guidance. We will require parental consent for all testing, we will send out further information regarding testing and consent next week.

Should your child's lateral flow test be positive, you will be required to collect them from school immediately and book a PCR test for them. (Advice for this will be given if required.)

External and Mock examinations which are set to take place during the period from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of January will continue to happen as arranged.

## **Week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> January:**

Staff will be having a **PD day on 4<sup>th</sup> January**; this is to prepare for the logistical challenge of setting up the testing process and to put in place plans for remote learning provisions.

School will be partially closed for the week beginning the 5<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2021. It remains open for any vulnerable pupils and children of key workers who will be expected to complete the online learning provided by their teachers. They will not receive formally taught lessons. If you believe that your child falls into the vulnerable or key worker child category, and they will require a place from the 5<sup>th</sup> January, please contact the school as soon as possible by emailing: [enquiries@thomasadams.net](mailto:enquiries@thomasadams.net)

Consent forms for pupils returning to school on the 5<sup>th</sup> January will be emailed out and we will need these returning by Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January to [bjh@thomasadams.net](mailto:bjh@thomasadams.net) or a printed version can be brought in on the morning of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

If your child usually requires bus transport to school, on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January buses will run as normal, but this may be adapted for the rest of the week and we will communicate this with you where necessary.

There will be cold food available for pupils to purchase on site, and for all pupils who usually receive Free School Meals, food packages will be provided by the school. You will be contacted in due course regarding this.



Lowe Hill, Wem, Shropshire SY4 5UB Telephone: 01939 237000  
e-mail: [enquiries@thomasadams.net](mailto:enquiries@thomasadams.net) website: [www.thomasadams.net](http://www.thomasadams.net)

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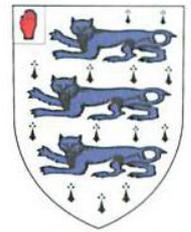
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All other pupils are to remain at home and work will be set by their teachers on Teams. Pupils should try to stick to their school timetable where possible and complete all work set. Teachers and other school staff are available to be contacted on Teams for any assistance required with either learning tasks or pastoral support.

On **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January, Year 13 students** are expected to come into school to be tested prior to starting back on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. This will ensure that we can continue with the Mock Examination period as previously arranged without disruption. If your child needs to use the school bus on this day, please let us know in advance by emailing [enquiries@thomasadams.net](mailto:enquiries@thomasadams.net) stating your child's name and which bus route they usually use.

## **Week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> January:**

**All Year 11 and Year 13 students are expected to return to school.** Year 13 will begin their Mock Examinations as arranged. We feel that this is very important to help maintain some normality and to ensure that we have robust data should we be expected to provide grades for your child moving forward.

Year 11 pupils will be tested throughout the day on a rolling programme. **Pupils who arrive to school by bus will be tested first and we ask that all pupils who walk/cycle to school arrive at 12pm.** Pupils who need to remain in school for the day will be supervised in their normal classrooms and complete revision work.

Year 11 will return to their normal lessons, which will be taught face-to-face with their teachers, on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January.

The school canteen will be open and providing a reduced range of hot and cold food.

All other year groups will remain at home and complete their learning on Teams.

From Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> January, we need as many pupils from Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 as possible to come into school to be tested prior to their return on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. This will be done using an appointments system and we will communicate how to book a testing slot next week.

## **Week commencing 18<sup>th</sup> January:**

Currently, it is expected that all pupils will return to on site education in school on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January. For those pupils who have not already been tested, this will be the priority.

We will provide further information should any changes be made following any reviews made by the government.



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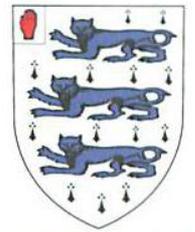
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The new government guidance has been put in place to help stop the spread of COVID-19 following the Christmas period. There is an expectation that we test all staff and pupils on their return to school, in order to isolate any positive cases before they come into contact with a larger group of people. We will play our part in the government plan and are currently working hard to find the staff and space to fulfil our obligations.

Please follow the link below which sets out the new guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021>

In line with this guidance, we have reviewed our risk assessment and our priority remains to do everything we can to ensure everyone in our school community is safe. At this time of a new, more virulent strain I want to reiterate that we will expect full cooperation from everyone and will show a ZERO TOLERANCE of students who break our Covid rules.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and patience at this time.

Yours sincerely

Mark Cooper  
Headteacher



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