



1st January 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Further to my letter sent on the 18th December, I write once again to provide an update in response to further new guidance to schools issued by the Government on Wednesday 30th December. As I am sure you are aware from reports across the media, the Government has now triggered the [education contingency framework](#) and delayed the staggered return for secondary schools and colleges by one week. Further details can be accessed via their official press release here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/school-contingency-plans-to-be-implemented-as-cases-rise>

Therefore, I would ask you to disregard all the information contained within my letter dated 18th December and instead focus upon the information within this letter today. The new guidance from the Government to school states:

During the week commencing 4 January schools with secondary age pupils should:

- *ensure on-site provision is available for vulnerable children and young people and children of critical workers*
- *work to set up their testing programme*
- *prioritise resource for remote education for exam year groups - remote education should be provided to other years as resources permit*

Full details of the guidance issued to schools and information for parents and carers can be found below should you wish to access this information, and I have included the most recent 'at a glance' table from the Government at the end of this letter.

- [Government Guidance for School Reopening](#)
- [What Parents and Carers need to know](#)



In response to these directives, St Nicholas Catholic High School will be implementing the following arrangements:

Week Commencing Monday 4th January

	Tuesday 5th January Additional Inset Day	Weds 6th January - Friday 8th January Remote learning for students will begin each day with Form Period. The normal timings for the school day and lessons will be followed.
Yr 13	School Closed to Students Students should ensure they are able to access MS Teams to engage with remote learning and email school with any difficulties	Students should access Microsoft Teams to engage with their remote learning Further details regarding our remote learning provision and 'how to' guides can be accessed here - https://st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk/remote-learning/
Yr 12		Students should access Microsoft Teams to engage with their remote learning Further details regarding our remote learning provision and 'how to' guides can be accessed here - https://st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk/remote-learning/ Year 12 Examinations will now begin w/c 18 th January
Yr 11		Students should access Microsoft Teams to engage with their remote learning Further details regarding our remote learning provision and 'how to' guides can be accessed here - https://st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk/remote-learning/
Yrs 7-10		Students should access Microsoft Teams to engage with their remote learning Further details regarding our remote learning provision and 'how to' guides can be accessed here - https://st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk/remote-learning/
Key Worker & Vulnerable Students		School open to students who have requested and are eligible for this provision. Please complete the online questionnaire via the link below should you wish your child(ren) to access on site provision by 12 noon on Monday 4 th January. https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=1QCEKbXqKE67QeEw-TRIHKjCFeh4dFnxSP6N0txBZU0ExZQ1g2Skp3WU45EFQTDJUTzNIRE5LUIQCN0PWcu

Thursday 7th January Year 10 Parents' & Carers' Evening

Our virtual Parents' and Carers' Evening will continue as planned from 4.15pm – 7.30pm.



Week Commencing Monday 11th January

	Monday 11th – Friday 15th January
	Remote learning for students will begin each day with Form Period. The normal timings for the school day and lessons will be followed.
Yr 13	Attend school as usual - Mock Examinations to begin Monday 11th January School Transport and Dining Room provision will be available as usual. Further details to follow regarding possible school on-site testing.
Yr 12	Students should access Microsoft Teams to engage with their remote learning Further details regarding our remote learning provision and 'how to' guides can be accessed here - https://st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk/remote-learning/ Year 12 Examinations will now begin w/c 18 th January
Yr 11	Attend school as usual - lessons will follow scheduled timetable School Transport and Dining Room provision will be available as usual. Further details to follow regarding possible school on-site testing.
Yrs 7-10	Students should access Microsoft Teams to engage with their remote learning Further details regarding our remote learning provision and 'how to' guides can be accessed here - https://st-nicholas.cheshire.sch.uk/remote-learning/ Further details to follow regarding possible school on-site testing.
Key Worker & Vulnerable Students	Attend school as agreed following completion of survey School Transport and Dining Room provision will be available as usual. Further details to follow regarding possible school on-site testing.

Please note that vouchers will be posted home to eligible families in lieu of Free School Meals not being taken in school during these two weeks.

Monday 18th January

- All students return to school as normal.
- Year 12 Mock examinations commence.



Mass testing programme

As I have previously stated, we are positive about the potential for the mass testing of students and staff in schools as a way of reducing the spread of the virus and enabling fewer students and staff to have to self-isolate. Although further details were shared with schools yesterday evening, we are yet to receive final operational guidance on this matter and we are mindful of the expectations and logistical challenges such a testing system brings – we will begin our planning in consultation with all stakeholders once final guidance is received and I will update you accordingly.

In conclusion, I hope you have been able to enjoy your Christmas and New Year with your loved ones either virtually or in person, and I very much hope that 2021 brings with it many blessings for us all. We will write to you again next week with full details and reminders of how to engage positively with remote learning at home, and we look forward to welcoming your children back to St Nicholas' over the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely

Richard Woods
Headteacher

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DfE At a Glance Table for January School Return Dates

 Department for Education

Return dates for primary and secondary schools and colleges in England

Year group	w/c 4 Jan	w/c 11 Jan	w/c 18 Jan
Secondary / college exam years	Prioritise remote education, January exam students attend	Return to school	Continue at school
Primary - reception to Y6	Return to school with some local exceptions*	Continue at school with some local exceptions*	Continue at school with some local exceptions*
Secondary / college	Some remote education	Remote education	Full return to school with some local exceptions*
Primary / secondary vulnerable and critical worker	Return to school	Continue at school	Continue at school
Special school	Return to school encouraged	Continue at school	Continue at school
Alternative provision	Return to school	Continue at school	Continue at school

* In some local areas, under the contingency framework students will have remote education except for exam years and vulnerable and critical worker children. Special schools for primary years should continue to allow pupils to attend full time.