



18th December 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

Yesterday we were told by the Department for Education (DfE) that there would be a staggered start to term in January 2021. If you wish to read the press release click [here](#). For current DfE guidance please click [here](#).

Why is there a staggered start to the Easter Term?

The DfE's overarching aim is to provide time so that schools can establish the infrastructure to deliver mass testing to staff and students on a regular basis. Mass testing should help fight the spread of the virus. It will also mean that anyone who is a close contact of somebody who tests positive and has no symptoms will not have to self-isolate. Instead they will be regularly tested in school, each day, for 7 school days. This will mean that students who are close contacts and test negative will not miss school. This has to be a good thing.

What will the staggered start look like?

Currently this is what we know:

- Students in Year 11 will attend as normal on Monday 4th January
- Vulnerable children or the children of Critical Workers in **all year groups** should also attend as normal on Monday 4th January. They should go to their normal classroom at the start of the day. This includes all our students in the Designated Provision. For a definition of a Vulnerable child or Critical worker please click [here](#).
- From Monday 4th January, students in Years 7-10 will learn remotely through Teams. They will be expected to follow their normal timetable as closely as possible for each day. Further guidance will be available on our website: <https://bridgewaterhigh.org/catch-up-and-home-learning/>
- Students in Years 7-10 will return to school no later than Monday 11th January
- Students in primary, special and alternative provision schools and colleges should attend as normal on Monday 4th January.

Will there be further updates?

Further guidance and information will be sent out on Monday 4th January. However, as we all know with Covid-19, things can change. If this is the case we will update our website: <https://bridgewaterhigh.org/coronavirus/>

Now all that remains on behalf of all the staff here is to wish you a heartfelt Happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year and, as ever, thank you for your patience and support.

Regards

Tim Long, Principal

