

Tuesday 5 Jan 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

COVID-19: School provision update following announcement of new national lockdown

Yesterday evening the Prime Minister announced that the UK's coronavirus alert level has increased. Due to the speed with which the new variant of the virus is spreading, it is now at five – the highest level – meaning there is a risk of healthcare services being overwhelmed. Therefore, a new **national lockdown** will be in place from 6th January. The Government instruction is to stay at home, with extreme measures enforced by law, while vaccines are rolled out.

As we had already planned, from Tuesday 5 January John Cabot Academy will be open **only for the children of critical workers** and those classed as **vulnerable** to attend on site. We will provide remote learning to be completed at home for all other students.

If you wish to request a critical worker place, please do email the academy on jcainfo@clf.uk The full list of critical workers can be found at the bottom of this letter.

Remote learning

Remote teaching and learning will be available for every child while they are at home. This provision will never be as good as in-class teaching, but we are doing our very best to make sure our students keep up with their learning. A guide to this remote provision is available on our school website on the “key information” tab: click [here](#) to access it directly.

Students should start by logging in to Show My Homework, where they will find classwork for the day. This will often include a link or instructions to go to Microsoft Teams, where lessons or parts of lessons will be taught directly to students, and recorded too.

The most important thing to remember is that Show My Homework is the starting point. Please read [this](#) guide carefully if you or your child are having problems logging in.

If your child does not have sole access to a laptop or desktop computer, or you do not have reliable internet access at home, we can lend you a laptop and/or dongle. Email JCAinfo@clf.uk or ring the school on 0117 976 3000 and tell us what your child needs. You will need to tell us their full name and year group. Someone will need to come to school to collect it, and sign a contract saying you will look after it. These items will need to be returned when your child returns to school.

Free School Meals

If your child receives free school meals, you will receive a Tesco voucher to the total value of £2.30 per missing school day. We will send details of how to access this voucher separately.

Year 11 and Year 13 students

We had expected that Year 11 and Year 13 students would be able to return to school from Monday 11 January. This is no longer possible: remote learning will continue to be provided and monitored.

In yesterday evening's announcement, the Prime Minister indicated that the summer GCSE examination series is highly unlikely to go ahead.

Principal: Kate Willis



Vocational Exams

The DfE have confirmed that the following vocational exams will take place:

- 11th January 2021: 9am Sport Science (Year 10)
- 13th January 2021 9am Enterprise and Marketing (Year 11)
- 14th January 2021: 9am Hospitality and Catering (Year 11)

These exams will go ahead as planned in a socially distanced exam space. Students can attend even if they have not yet had their test(s).

We have not yet had confirmation if this exam will take place:

- 5th February 2021: 1pm Health and Wellbeing (Year 11).

Rollout of mass testing

We have been told that the testing programme can continue for daily close contact testing and testing pupils on their return. But when this should commence is not yet clear.

I will write to you again shortly with full plans for the coming weeks. If you do have any questions, please do email jcainfo@clf.uk or call 0117 976 3000.

Kind regards



Kate Willis
Principal
John Cabot Academy

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Current Government definition of 'Critical Workers'

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) and EU transition response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined below.

Health and social care

Doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, other frontline health and social care staff, those working in health and social care supply chain

Education and childcare

Childcare, support and teaching staff, social workers, specialist education professionals

Key public services

Justice system, religious staff, charity workers, those responsible for managing deceased, public service broadcasters

Local and national government

Administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of Covid-19 response and delivery of EU transition, essential public services

Food and other necessary goods

Those involved in food production, processing, distribution, sale and delivery, and provision of other key goods e.g. hygiene, medicine

Public safety and national security

Police and police support staff, Ministry of Defence civilians, contractor and armed forces personnel, fire and rescue service employees, National Crime Agency staff, border security, prison and probation staff

Transport and border

Those who keep air, water, road, rail passenger and freight transport modes and supply chains operational

Utilities, communication and financial services

Essential financial service staff, oil, gas, electricity, water sectors, IT and data sector and primary industry supplies to Covid-19 response, civil nuclear, chemical, telecoms staff, postal services and delivery, payment providers, waste disposal sectors.

For further information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>

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