

18th December 2020
Ref: GKA/KPA



RUSHEY MEAD
ACADEMY

Rushey Mead Academy
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Principal: Mrs G Kader

Dear Parents/Carers

Start of Term Arrangements

This has been a hectic term and as we reach the Christmas holidays, we want to begin by thanking you for your constant support throughout 2020. We also have a number of last-minute information points to share with you all.

We need to make you aware that the government have decided that **secondary schools** will be asked to operate a staggered return during the first week of next term. Students in year 11, vulnerable children and children of critical workers should return to school at the beginning of term on Tuesday 5th January 2021. Vocational exams scheduled for the week of 4th January will go ahead as planned.

Monday 4th January is Logistical Planning Day for staff and no students are expected on site and no lessons will be set for students.

Pupils in year groups 7-10 will not attend school for face-to-face education from Tuesday 5th January to Friday 8th January, but will instead receive remote education, as close as possible to that which students would get in class.

Face-to-face education for pupils in year groups 7-10 will resume on Monday 11th January 2021.

Keyworker Children

The Government has asked that schools remain open to the children of critical workers from Tuesday 5th January to Friday 8th January.

Here is a list of those considered to be critical workers:

[Critical workers and vulnerable children who can access schools or educational settings - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

In order for us to plan accordingly, we ask that you let us know whether you require a place for your child during this period. Please email info@rushey-tmet.uk to let us know whether you require a place or not. **The deadline for responses is Wednesday 30th December. Any responses after this date may mean that there is a delay in providing a place for your child.**

Students who need extra support and help

Due to a number of different circumstances that affect our students, we are open to support to students who may need extra help or support. These students will be contacted separately and invited to attend the provision on site from Tuesday 5th January to Friday 8th January.

Remote learning

We will continue to set work for your child whilst school is closed. This is not an extended holiday therefore all students must work from home remotely.

Work can be accessed via Satchel:One (previously called ShowMyHomework) and MS TEAMS. **Your child must continue to work** during their usual school hours, following their timetable and wake up on time and go to bed on time. Your child must look and respond to their emails daily.

School meals

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, then they will be entitled to either a food hamper or a voucher. We will be in touch once we have more details.

Laptops

If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, then they will be entitled to a laptop, which will need to be collected from reception on Monday 4th January in preparation for lessons starting on Tuesday 5th January, but only once you have been contacted.

Onsite Testing

The government has also today confirmed that all secondary schools and colleges in England will be able to test more of their staff and students in a round of free coronavirus testing from the beginning of January. We are awaiting further details about the practical implications.

It is suggested that the testing should help to tackle the one in three who have the virus but do not have symptoms, so could be spreading the disease unknowingly. This would minimise disruption during the spring term by helping identify positive cases when pupils return to face-to-face education following the Christmas break.

We would like to wish you all a safe, healthy, relaxing and enjoyable break with your families and a very happy Christmas.

Yours sincerely



GULBANU KADER
PRINCIPAL