

Dear Parent/Carer

Happy New Year to you and your family. I hope that you have all had a restful break and, like me, were looking forward to the new year with renewed hope and optimism. Certainly the news about the vaccine has given us this, but the Prime Minister's announcement last night and subsequent messages coming out today have dented this a little and we will need to show our customary resilience and fortitude as we navigate the next six weeks; I am confident that all pulling together will help with this.

Online Learning

All lessons will be online with the majority of these being live Teams lessons. In a previous communication I sent out information and guides to help you to help your son/daughter with this. Attendance and engagement in online lessons **is compulsory** for all students and they will follow their normal timetable in all subjects, except for core PE. Each day will start with a brief form period and attendance at this is also expected. Attendance and engagement are being monitored by staff and we shall be letting you know of any issues as they arise. Similarly, should issues arise from your end, please let us know sooner rather than later so that a small issue does not become a larger one further down the line.

If you have any problems with the IT please contact our IT Team at ICTsupport@robertcarretrust.uk.

Children of Critical Workers and Vulnerable Children

The following students are able come into school if there is no safer supervision at home:

- Vulnerable children – the SENCO has contacted these students.
- Children of critical workers. We deem those in Years 7 and 8 to be of the age to need supervising in school but strongly encourage older children of critical workers to continue with their studies from home, giving them better access to live online lessons.

If you have not already done so, you must register your child's attendance using this [online form](#) if they need to attend school all day on any day between 11-18 January. It would be appreciated if those who have previously indicated that they would like to book a place please re-commit as this helps with our planning.

If you are unsure about whether or not your child falls into one of these categories, please contact us on enquiries@carres.uk for confirmation, or check the categories for critical workers on the gov.uk website, which has been updated in light of the PM's announcement. It is our intention to roll out the Lateral Flow Tests next week to these students. If you are happy for your child to be tested, please complete this [consent form](#) (one per student) and submit it by 8 January 2021, if you have not already done so.

Parents' Evenings

All Parents' Evenings will take place this term via SchoolCloud, which is an online video platform established for this. Details will be sent to the year group parents ahead of each meeting.

The Year 12 Parents' Evening will take place as previously advertised, on 6 January.

GCSE and A level Exams

There has been speculation about the summer GCSE and A level exams and what it means for students. The current situation is that these exams are to be cancelled, but what will be in their place is as yet unclear as the government and Ofqual are in discussion about this. The message for students is that it is the learning that matters and they should focus on doing their very best with all of their work as it could all contribute to the final outcome in the summer, as was the case last year. As we know more, we shall, of course, keep you informed.

The latest information we can find suggests that the Vocational exams for Years 11, 12 and 13 **WILL** be going ahead next week. We will aim to provide confirmation of arrangements within the next 24-48 hours as regards these exams.

Mass Testing

All recent communications regarding mass testing are now not applicable for the time being.

Free School Meals

Arrangements for free school meal students this week will be the food parcels as already arranged. We will write with more information about longer term plans for that once we have had further guidance.

N M Law
Headteacher