



Samuel Ryder Academy

Education for a changing world

31st December 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas despite the restrictions in place. Please accept my apologies for the lengthy letter but unfortunately the circumstances require us to communicate a significant amount of information in a short period of time.

As you will be aware from the news and other media sources, the Government has made some significant changes to the start of the Spring Term for secondary age students with the latest update yesterday. Thankfully our primary age pupils are unaffected by the announcement. I have attached the link below which may be helpful.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021>

In summary, at the time of writing, this is the situation for our school.

- Monday 4th January will be our Inset day as planned.
- All primary pupils will return from 5th January onwards as planned.
- Children of key workers and identified vulnerable students can attend school from 5th January onwards.
 - Children of key workers - a Microsoft form will be sent out shortly to parents to identify themselves as a key worker and take advantage of the offer for their children to be in school from the 5th January. Further details are below.
 - Identified vulnerable students – we are in the process of identifying the vulnerable children and will be contacting you directly.
- Year 11 and 13 students will be taught remotely from 5th January and will return to school for face-to-face lessons from 11th January onwards.
- Students in years 7,8,9,10 and 12 will be taught remotely from 5th January and will return to school for face-to-face lessons on 18th January.
- Monday 18th January we will be open to all year groups and engaged in a cycle of testing as outlined in the Government guidance.

We are very supportive of the introduction of this initiative to reduce the number of self-isolation periods for those who have been in close contact with a positive Coronavirus case. It does also make some sense to have a phased return of pupils and students to the school site to avoid being overwhelmed if there are many post-Christmas cases.

The intention is that secondary students who are returning will be offered a lateral flow test, and, going forward, teachers can be tested weekly, and secondary students who have had contact with a positive case will be tested daily for a seven-day period. It will be challenging to meet the staffing requirements to deliver this is at this point as our existing staff will be fully occupied in teaching or supporting your sons and daughters either onsite or remotely. Therefore, we are inviting volunteers for this process.

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Company Number: 07697132

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Volunteers for the testing process at Samuel Ryder Academy

Please find a Microsoft Form link below to ascertain whether you are willing and available to support the testing process at Samuel Ryder Academy. There will be a variety of roles required to ensure that the testing is completed efficiently and appropriate guidance and training will be provided. Please complete the below form by 11pm on Sunday 3rd January.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=FoOZLkRWgUSI8Knlv-UI-Z7hI6YxVX1DkS8_axTRXxxUMIc5NTRRMUdUVEVXUTYwQ1BJRDZTR1NDWi4

In order for the proposed testing programme to take place for secondary students we also require parental consent. We will be providing further information and a consent form will be sent to you shortly. Please complete and return the form as soon as possible.

Ensuring academic progress – remote learning 5th January onwards for secondary students

Teachers should be available to students in each and every timetabled lesson and this will come in a variety of different ways.

Whilst at home, students should try to follow their normal timetable for completing work. We have two methods of delivering remote learning. We will offer a mixture of 'synchronous' teaching through Microsoft Teams (where the teacher and pupils are engaged in the lesson at the same time), and 'non-synchronous' teaching using the Year Group One Drive (where the setting and doing of the work are at different times) with students completing work as directed.

Using the Year Group One Drive

Here are the links to the Year Group One Drives:

| | |
|---------|---|
| Year 7 | https://samuelryderacademycouk-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/personal/sra-y7_students_samuelryderacademy_co_uk/Documents/Year%207?csf=1&e=BbZoid |
| Year 8 | https://samuelryderacademycouk-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/personal/sra-y8_students_samuelryderacademy_co_uk/Documents/Year%208?csf=1&e=oKJrE4 |
| Year 9 | https://samuelryderacademycouk-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/personal/sra-y9_students_samuelryderacademy_co_uk/Documents/Year%209?csf=1&e=ggy4IU |
| Year 10 | https://samuelryderacademycouk-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/personal/sra-y10_students_samuelryderacademy_co_uk/Documents/Year%2010?csf=1&e=6aUW95 |
| Year 11 | https://samuelryderacademycouk-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/personal/sra-y11_students_samuelryderacademy_co_uk/Documents/Year%2011?csf=1&e=9vePPq |
| Year 12 | https://samuelryderacademycouk-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/personal/sra-y12_students_samuelryderacademy_co_uk/Documents/Year%2012?csf=1&e=Wzr2SN |
| Year 13 | https://samuelryderacademycouk-my.sharepoint.com/:f:/r/personal/sra-y13_students_samuelryderacademy_co_uk/Documents/Year%2013?csf=1&e=Pxx8VV |

Once you click on this link you will be directed to subject folders. Should you not be directed first time, please copy the link directly in to the tool bar. These links are also available on our school website. The One Drive can be accessed on students iPad, desktops and mobile devices. Please click on each subject folder where you will see work to complete at home for the isolation period.

If your child has difficulty in signing on to any of the learning software packages – One Drive, school email or Microsoft Teams, then please email TechnicalAssistance@SamuelRyderAcademy.co.uk

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Live lessons on Microsoft Teams

Microsoft Teams is a collaborative platform which allows for real-time communication and sharing of resources between teachers and their classes. Every staff member has been set up on Teams and pre-registered to each of their classes.

All students will be sent invitations to join “live” lessons via Microsoft Teams. Alerts from Microsoft Teams will be delivered to the students via their school email and so in this way they will be kept up to date with any planned live lessons or tasks that they can complete.

Teachers will build deliberately on students’ prior knowledge to support new steps in learning. There will be a particular emphasis on clear explanations, and the amount of new information will be reduced. Students will be provided with opportunities to practise, reflect and review their learning.

Students can access Microsoft Teams directly through their internet browser using the Microsoft Office 365 suite, or through an App that has been downloaded on to their iPad. We have created a useful guide on how to use Microsoft Teams, along with student protocols for online learning. Again, if there are any difficulties with accessing student emails please direct these to: TechnicalAssistance@SamuelRyderAcademy.co.uk

Expectations of Students during remote learning

Assuming they are well enough to work, students are expected to:

- Attend all lessons.
- Complete all work set for them and submit work promptly as instructed by their teacher.
- Check emails and learning programs regularly, and read and respond to communication from the school.
- Proactively inform IT support where they experience IT problems.
- Uphold the same standards of conduct and behaviour during live online lessons as they would be expected to in school.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Ensuring appropriate language is used in Teams comments or emails, and that any comment is on-topic and relevant to the task in hand.
- Ensuring full engagement with the tasks in hand, including submission of any required work by the deadline that has been set.
- Ensuring that clothing is appropriate, following the same guidance as a normal “Dress down” day in school.

Please take time to discuss these expectations with your son/daughter. If you have any questions on remote learning you can also contact your son/daughter’s Form Tutor or Head of Year during the term.

Key worker parents/carers

If you are a key worker and intend to send your son/daughter to school from Tuesday 5th of January onwards please complete the short form using the link below. If you are completing the form, your son/daughter will be expected to attend school each day. If you have more than one child, you will need to complete a separate form for each. The

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students will be in year group bubbles during this period and will have access to remote learning, to ensure they receive the same learning opportunities as the rest of their year group.

<https://tinyurl.com/yaofjyb8>

Please accept my apologies for the lateness of this contact but we are in a rapidly changing environment with regular updates to guidance from Government. I can assure you that we will continue to provide the best care and education for the pupils either in school, or remotely, and keep you updated as best we can.

Finally, I hope you have a good new year.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Mr Gauthier
Headteacher

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