



Bexley Grammar School
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4th January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

Virtual learning (and mass testing)

Happy New Year!

There has been more shift in the media narrative since I wrote on New Year's Eve which may, again, change our current plans for the first weeks of the Spring term. However, these remain as in my previous letter:

- **Monday 4th to Friday 8th January**
 - Virtual learning at home for all students except for
 - In-school provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children to engage in virtual learning in computer rooms in school.
- **Monday 11th to Friday 15th January**
 - In-school face to face provision for Years 13 and 11 following their usual timetable
 - In-school provision for children of key workers and vulnerable children to engage in virtual learning in computer rooms in school;
 - Virtual learning at home for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12.
- **Monday 18th January**
 - **All students return** to school (except any students self-isolating).

What is very clear, is that whatever change there might be to the above plan, there will remain an important element of **virtual learning** (students working from home) **from the start of term tomorrow (Tuesday 5th January) for students in all year groups.**

We have built on our experiences of the first national lockdown and worked on our contingency planning throughout the autumn term ready for this second phase of Virtual Learning. This term we will be expecting all students to follow their school timetables each day from home. Work will be scheduled for release to students via their Google Classrooms in each subject at the start of each timetabled lesson each day. Students can expect to have a range of interactions with their teachers during their lessons to support their Virtual Learning, including email, live Google Meets (like Zoom), recorded instructions and Assignments set in Google Classroom.

In addition to the documentation we shared with you last term, advice and documents to support students and parents with Virtual Learning can now be found [here on our website](#). I hope this helps you understand what the school will provide and how you can help to support your children in this, we hope,

short period of virtual learning. There will be a separate communication to provide additional support to students and parents in Year 7 since they were not with us last summer.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the 56 parents who have volunteered to support the mass testing we are setting up this week - I am delighted that so many have felt able to offer help! It is a considerable logistical task to work out a rota and provide training for so many people who can help at different times in different capacities - please be patient as we work through this and prepare our test site in school.

All parents (and students in year 12 and 13 who may give their own consent) will be asked as soon as possible this week to respond to the offer of testing in school and give consent or otherwise to the process. Please monitor your email and respond as promptly as possible to help our preparations in school.

As I said in our virtual staff meeting this morning, this is not the start to 2021 that I would have predicted when we returned to school in September. We are all anxious to have all our students back as soon as possible and the hope is that mass testing will make this possible and reduce risks even further.

All best wishes for 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Elphick', written in a cursive style.

Steve Elphick