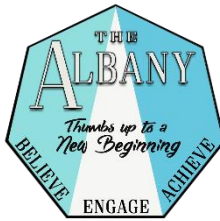


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Head Teacher: Jane Reason

Tuesday 5 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

What does Lockdown mean for my child's education?

Following the statement last night by the Prime Minister regarding school closures, I wanted to reassure you of our plans for children at The Albany going forwards. In his statement last night, the Prime Minister said only very vulnerable children and children of key workers are able to attend school, and all others should learn remotely. However, as a specialist offer, many of our children may fall into the government's description of vulnerable and so we will be doing our best to provide onsite learning for all students some of the time, supplemented by remote learning.

As I explained in my letter on Sunday evening, we will not be fully open to all students for the next two weeks, and will review our offer in light of rapidly changing government guidance by 15/1/2021. This is due to limitations with staffing whilst we implement the testing process and a reduction in staffing due to the impact of the lockdown and Covid-19. During this time we are looking to ensure that children of key workers and highly vulnerable children can attend school should their parents wish them to, but this offer will be supplemented by a timetabled remote learning offer we expect students to access. We also expect to have a limited on site offer for all students, with significant elements of their learning being remote. All students will have a blended learning offer of face to face, online and project learning.

Many of our classroom spaces are small so we are also looking at reducing numbers in school to facilitate

Are you a key worker?

You will have been contacted by your child's class teacher regarding key worker status (in accordance with Government guidance we will require evidence of this). If you are a key worker, we will prioritise access to on site learning for your child.

If we or other agencies identify your child as highly vulnerable such that it is important they have access to regular onsite learning, we encourage you to enable your child to come to school.

I don't want my child to come to school during lockdown

It is important that we respect your decision should you wish your child to remain at home during the lock down, so we will have a robust online learning offer in place, supplemented by doorstep visits and local area activities for them to engage in. If you do not wish your child to have an onsite offer, please make sure you have emailed or written to the school with this information and the reason for your decision.

Covid testing for secondary age students

The Government has rolled out rapid lateral flow testing capability to all schools with secondary age students. Engagement in this is voluntary, and emailed or hand written confirmation of your consent for your child to take part in this is required before they can be included in this programme. We will be starting this programme tomorrow, with students who are timetabled in school tomorrow being offered the test. A second test will then take place 3 to 5 days after the first test. Staff will be tested weekly. A consent form is included with this letter.

Except in exceptional circumstances, we will expect you to arrange for your child to get home from school should they test positive. Taxis will not be available for these journeys and the government is advising against the use of public transport.



We remain committed to providing the best learning environment we can for your child in these challenging times and thank you for your support. Please contact me if you have any further concerns or questions.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'JR', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jane Reason
Headteacher

