



Smestow School
Windmill Crescent
Castlecroft
Wolverhampton
West Midlands
WV3 8HU

Executive Headteacher: Mr. C. Jones

Tel: (01902) 539 500
Email: enquiries@smestow.uwmat.co.uk
Website: www.smestow.org



Dear Parent/ Guardian

Please find the most up to date guidance on the arrangements around the Academy. We are trying to ensure that you are fully up to date before the end of the week.

Return

Student return to education is now clear. To summarise

January 5th – Academy open to vulnerable and essential key worker children. To book a place please email covid19@smestow.uwmat.co.uk, detailing your occupation/reason for attendance, and the school days your child(ren) are requested to attend. A confirmation e mail will be sent to parents, with further information. Please do not send your child to school without a confirmation email, this will ensure that registers are correct and that all expected students have arrived safely and allocated to class bubbles.

Years 10,11,12 and 13 will have online live lessons with their teachers – please be aware that this is dependent on the internet and on staff absence

Years 7, 8 and 9 will have work set on Sharepoint

All students not on site are to email their Tutor between 8.30 – 8.45a.m. to confirm they are commencing learning. It is a requirement that all students access learning remotely, therefore, all students failing to make contact with their Tutor will be followed up via communication with parents. Students can also use this opportunity to inform their Tutor of any concerns regarding accessing their learning.

January 11th – Academy open to vulnerable and essential key worker children. To book a place please email covid19@smestow.uwmat.co.uk, detailing your occupation/reason for attendance, and the school days your child(ren) are requested to attend. A confirmation e mail will be sent to parents, with further information. Please do not send your child to school without a confirmation email, this will ensure that registers are correct and that all expected students have arrived safely and allocated to class bubbles.

Years 11 and 13 will be in the Academy for normal face to face teaching. Arrival times as per letter before Christmas

Years 10 and 12 will have online live lessons (staff absence and internet dependent)





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January 18th – Academy open to all students. Arrival time as per letter distributed before Christmas

Face masks

As students return, we will expect them to wear face masks in classrooms as well as in communal areas. Whilst we continue to be in Tier 4 restrictions, we will do everything possible to ensure our community is safe and well.

Please ensure that your son/ daughter follows this guidance as my first priority will be everyone's safety. I have been previously clear about the consequences of not following this procedure.

Students who cannot wear a mask for medical reasons are already noted within the Academy

Testing

As you will be aware the Government has made an announcement on mass testing in schools. Extra guidance has arrived on 31 January with online training not available until 4/5 January.

Our number one priority is the Health and wellbeing of our community. We continue to have concerns about students undertaking "self directed" tests and staff receiving online training to ensure that they are "competent" to support. We are continuing to investigate how this could work safely at the Academy

We continue to take the line that the best option for lateral flow testing is the Wolverhampton site based at the Civic. Details have been previously circulated and we ask parents and students to utilise this regularly. This is where the clinical expertise is based and is available to our community.

The Trust Board will meet on Tuesday 5th to decide how we move forward as a Trust on testing due to the importance of this decision. At present the earliest we would move to mass testing on site would be 11 January. We will only introduce if we can do so safely.





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BTEC exams

All students who are taking BTEC exams in the first few weeks have been contacted directly. We will continue to work to support them. We understand that this is a difficult time for these students, but I can reassure you that we are doing everything we can to help

Please be aware that we are trying to update you as promptly as possible and things may change over the coming weeks.

Have a Happy New Year

Yours Faithfully

Clive Jones
Executive Headteacher