



# Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School

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## Urgent - Week Beginning Monday 4th January 2021 - Staggered Start

Dear Parents/Carers,

Having made announcements to the media yesterday morning, the Department for Education sent through its guidance to schools regarding the return to school in January 2021 at 6.22 pm last night. There are still many questions that need to be answered and we have been told that there will be a further announcement from the Secretary of State next week. I am sure you will share my frustration at the late notice provided, especially at a time when we were all hoping for a well-deserved rest.

As a result of the information that has been provided, please note the following changes to the start of the Spring Term:

- **Year 11** should return to lessons as normal on Monday 4th January at 8.30 am. They will follow their usual school timetable all week
- **Year 13** will remain on study leave and only attend school for their mock exams. These will take place as scheduled. They will return to lessons on Wednesday 13th January
- Any student in Year 13 who has **public** exams at the start of term should attend those exams as scheduled
- **Year 12 Health & Social Care students** who have a public exam on Monday 11th January should attend school for their Health & Social Care lessons only. They should remain at home and work remotely for all other lessons
- Pupils who fall into the category of **vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers** may attend school from Tuesday 5th January. We will be contacting parents/carers on Monday 4th January to ask those who may be identified as one of these categories whether they want their child to attend school for the remainder of the week or to continue to work remotely at home
- **All other pupils (ie Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12) should not attend school until Monday 11th January.** They will be provided with remote learning using Google Classroom for the week beginning 4th January. We will be asking teachers to be 'live' in lessons on Google Classroom following the normal lesson timings and we expect all pupils to join the Classroom and complete the tasks set, following the usual school day.

*"This is an OUTSTANDING school" - Ofsted 2016*



- There will be no lunchtime or after school enrichment activities during the week beginning Monday 4th January.
- Reg's Coaches will commence their R44 school bus service on Monday 11th January

For those pupils working remotely at home it is very important that they maintain the routine of the school day. Most form tutors will aim to start the day with a registration activity on their form Google Classroom and pupils should take breaks at the usual times. Some additional homework tasks may also be set for pupils to complete after the school day has finished.

Pupils in Year 9 were due to sit their Year 9 exams during the first week of term and these will now be put back a week. Specific dates for each subject exam will be shared during the first week of term.

As noted above, we will be contacting parents/carers of children who may fall into the categories of vulnerable pupils or children of critical workers regarding attending school when we return on Monday 4th January. Unfortunately the timing of the Government's announcement has meant that we are unable to organise this provision before the first day of term. If any parent/carer has an urgent need for their child to attend school on Monday 4th January they should email the school by Tuesday 22nd December making a request that they attend school: [admin@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@bishophatfield.herts.sch.uk). Pupils who attend school will follow the remote learning provision and will be allocated a room in which to work using Chromebooks/PCs.

Pupils in receipt of Free School Meals will be issued with supermarket vouchers for the week beginning Monday 4th January, unless they are in school.

During the first week of term we will be working on the Government's plans for widespread testing of pupils in schools. Once again, there are very many unanswered questions regarding how this will operate and I have been provided with little detail at the time of writing. Once I have more information I will of course write to you again.

Once again, thank you for your support and understanding. I have been so grateful for the many messages of encouragement we have received in the last days of term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Wood  
Headteacher