



18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

You may be aware that the Government has announced that there is to be a staggered start to the new term for pupils in secondary schools. This is one of the measures being taken nationally to try and reduce the spread of Covid-19.

This is not an extension of the school holiday. All pupils will start their lessons on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January but some year groups will be working at home for one week.

The arrangements are as follows:

**Week commencing 5<sup>th</sup> January**

School will be open to all pupils in Year 11 at 8.45

School is open to the children of key workers and to vulnerable children in all year groups.

If you are a key worker, please notify the school by email ([info@thevalley.staracademies.org](mailto:info@thevalley.staracademies.org)) no later than Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December in order that we know who will be attending on site.

We will contact you if your child is considered to be vulnerable.

All other pupils in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 will learn at home. Their teachers will deliver lessons via MS Teams. Please ensure that your child logs on punctually for their lessons, which will follow the school's usual timetable. Your child should also continue with their own reading. We have put some further guidance on the Academy website.

**Week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> January**

School will be open to **all** pupils.

The Government is committed to rolling out a programme of testing for all secondary school pupils in January. All testing requires parental consent. I will write to you again when we have more information about how the testing programme will work and when it will commence. I hope that you will provide your consent in the interests of everyone's wellbeing.

Testing does not replace the need for extreme caution that should be taken during the holiday period. Please remind your child of the need to maintain social distance, wash their hands frequently for at least 20 seconds and the wear a mask in enclosed public spaces.

Thank you for your continuing support and very best wishes.

Yours sincerely

A. O'Brien  
Executive Principal

