

6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I wrote to you last week following the Government's announcement, just before the New Year, regarding return-to-school dates this term – please disregard this information.

You may be aware that, due to rising infection rates of Covid-19, the Prime Minister has announced a new national lockdown in a bid to prevent the further spread of the virus.

As part of this, all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges in England, including our school, Goodwin Academy, are to be closed until at least the end of half term in February, except for children of key workers or vulnerable children. Nurseries are able to remain open.

**If you or your partner is a key or critical worker, or if your child is classed as vulnerable, then the school will remain open**, and we look forward to seeing them in school.

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school community as safe as possible, and I would like to remind you of the continued safety measures in place on school grounds:

- Everyone is expected to remain in their allocated bubbles
- Students are encouraged to wash/sanitise their hands regularly throughout the day
- Visitors/parents must wear face coverings on school grounds, including at the school gates
- Staff and students must wear face coverings in communal areas

Please note, where possible, we are working with windows open in classrooms for added ventilation, and as the cold days have returned, pupils may need a few more layers of clothing such as tights or leggings or a t-shirt or vest.

**VULNERABLE STUDENTS AND CRITICAL WORKER PROVISION** - My team and I are committed to supporting our most vulnerable students and the children of critical workers who are dealing with the current crisis. If your work is critical to the Covid-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

- Health and social care
- Education or childcare
- Key public services
- Local or National Government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

Please note that this list is regularly updated, please refer to the link below for the most recent list.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?utm\\_source=4%20January%202021%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19#critical-workers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?utm_source=4%20January%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19#critical-workers)



You must give the school 24 hours notice if you need to use this provision, so that we can provide appropriate staffing. Students arriving without giving prior notice may be turned away if we do not have adequate staffing.

**For all other pupils, our school is closed until at least the end of the February half-term.**

**EXAMS** – All BTEC exams that are due to be sat will go ahead as planned. Please check the exam timetable to ensure your child is aware of their exam slots. Students are required to arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the exam and should assemble at the front of the main office socially distanced.

**REMOTE LEARNING** – We will provide high-quality remote learning to ensure a consistent education is available. We understand that this places pressure on you as a family during this difficult time, and your support in helping your child engage as much as possible is so important; and we are very grateful for your time and effort.

Students should log onto Microsoft Teams during their allocated lesson times to receive work from their subject teachers and participate in live learning where possible. Period 1 remote lessons will start at 8.30am. Please [click here](#) for guidance on distance learning and using Microsoft Teams. We will monitor students' engagement with their remote learning.

If your child is unable to access Microsoft Teams please contact the school office.

**FREE SCHOOL MEALS** – If your child(ren) receives benefits related to free school meals you will be able to attend the school each week and be provided a weekly food parcel. The parcels will be delivered to schools and parents will need to collect these. For unique circumstances i.e. if you or someone in your household has tested positive, is self-isolating or travel to the school is difficult please let us know and alternative arrangements will be made. We will contact eligible families next week to confirm collection dates and the process.

My team and I will continue to stay in touch with you across the term, however, do let us know if you would like to discuss this matter, or if you require additional support relating to these new arrangements.

I would once again like to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage these ongoing changes. Please continue to take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr S Smith  
**Principal**