



# Ark Elvin Academy

31 December 2020

Dear Parents and carers,

I do hope you and your family have enjoyed the break over Christmas despite the restrictions.

Following the Government announcement on schools yesterday afternoon, I am writing to confirm arrangements for the first two weeks of the Spring Term. Further details will be confirmed as soon as we have them.

As you are probably aware, the rising rates of coronavirus infection have led the Government to delay the return to face-to-face teaching in secondary schools. A staggered return is therefore required, with priority given to the year-groups facing public examinations in the summer (Years 11 and 12) alongside vulnerable students and the children of critical workers.

## **Key arrangements for the next two weeks are as follows:**

- Years 7-10 and Year 12 will have their on-line virtual parent review day meetings on Wednesday 6 January as planned. They will then complete on-line learning tasks from home on the 7th and 8th of January – these will be homework tasks they can complete in their own time.
- Years 7-10 will then move to remote teaching online from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. Pupils will follow their timetable of lessons via Microsoft Teams. The on-line school day will start at 08:30am each morning. They will be able to return to school for face-to-face teaching on Monday 18 January.
- Year 11 and Year 12 will complete on-line learning tasks from home on the 7th and 8th of January – these will be homework tasks they can complete in their own time. However, students in these year-groups will be able to return to school on Monday 11 January.
- We will continue to provide face to face education on site from Thursday 7 January for vulnerable students and the children of critical workers. We will contact these families early next week to notify them of arrangements.

Over the holidays we have been working on plans to begin offering coronavirus testing for students and staff in school, and I will keep you updated on these arrangements as further information becomes available. This testing programme will help us to identify asymptomatic and pre-symptomatic cases and thus to reduce possible transmission in school, which will be beneficial.

We will be inviting all Year 11 and Year 12 pupils into school for these tests next week – we will send you the details on Monday. All other year groups will be invited in for tests during the week beginning 11th January. Again, we will send further details next week. Whilst these tests are NOT compulsory, we are keen to have as many of our community tested as possible

## **Ark Elvin Academy**

Cecil Avenue Wembley Middlesex HA9 7DU

T 020 8902 6362

info@arkelvinacademy.org

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to reduce the risk of spreading the virus in our school and to do what it takes to keep our school open for your child to learn in.

The rising rate of infection is naturally of concern to us, and we will be keeping the safety of our community at the heart of all our planning. We will be able to answer your questions in the parent review day meetings next week and we will be running additional virtual meetings to answer your safety questions towards the end of next week.

Of course, the situation is constantly changing so we will be in touch with you regularly with updates. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly.

With every good wish to you all for 2021.

Ms Curtis  
Principal

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