



Edmonton County School

Educating our Community for Success

5th January 2021

School closures update

Dear Parents / Carers,

I hope you and your families are safe and well, and have been able to have a peaceful and restful Christmas break. I appreciate that, in these difficult times, the last few weeks may have been a period of uncertainty, illness or grief for some families.

I last wrote to you on 31st December, outlining the dates of the phased return to school this January, and today I had planned to provide further information regarding the mass testing of students for COVID-19. However, events have overtaken us again and last night the Prime Minister announced the closure of all schools until at least the February half-term from today. Although we may feel some confusion and frustration at the timing of this announcement, I believe this is the right thing to do for the safety of our school community in the face of the rising number of cases due to the new, more-infectious COVID-19 'variant'.

From today, schools have been asked to provide 'remote, online education', including 'live lessons' and an in-school provision for children of keyworkers and vulnerable children. We will be adhering to the relevant timings in my previous letter:

	Provision	Online 'platforms' used
Years 11, 12 and 13	Remote, online education from Tuesday 5 th January	Show My Homework and Teams
Years 7-10	Remote, online education from Monday 11 th January	Show My Homework and Teams
Primary	Remote, online education from Tuesday 5 th January	Google Classroom (and Zoom)
Vulnerable children and children of critical workers	Full-time provision located on our Bury Campus. Please contact Mrs Adekola, Director of Inclusion fadekola@edact.org.uk (secondary) or primary@edact.org.uk (primary) for details. Note that critical workers may need to provide proof of their employment in order to secure a place for their child.	

Our model for remote, online learning in the secondary school will follow students' usual school timetables and consist of roughly 50% 'live' lessons (delivered via Microsoft Teams) combined with 50% of independent learning tasks to be completed by students (set via Show My Homework). It is vital that all students attend all the Teams lessons and complete the work set subsequently. Whilst we will be closely monitoring 'attendance', participation and completion of work, parents have a key role to play in ensuring that their child is accessing the school's provision and making good progress. I do appreciate that this can be a challenge for working parents!

Parents should check that their children have up-to-date login details for the relevant online platforms. To resolve problems with login details, please click [here](#) to report an issue, or use the 'Report login issue' link on the school website. A guide to Teams is also available via the website. Primary parents should contact their child's class teacher directly, or email primary@edact.org.uk

Edmonton County School is part of Edmonton Academy Trust, a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 10311383. The registered office is at Great Cambridge Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 1HQ.

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To support students in their learning and personal development and to provide a regular link with school, both pastoral staff and teachers will make regular contact with students and their families by telephone over the next few weeks. We are also planning weekly online assemblies and tutor group activities.

For students in Years 11, 12 and 13 who were expecting to sit public examinations this year, I appreciate that this may be a worrying and unsettling time. In his announcement yesterday, the Prime Minister said that school closures "*will mean it's not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer, as normal.*" Whilst there are some reports in the media that A Levels, AS Levels and GCSE examinations may be cancelled, nothing has been confirmed by the Department for Education and it is not yet clear what process will be used to award grades next summer. **Please note that (currently) examinations in BTEC and vocational courses will still be going ahead, including those in January. Students and parents will be contacted individually about the arrangements for these.**

We have been consistent in our message to Year 11, 12 and 13 students since the start of the year that they should try their hardest in lessons (including online lessons), homework, revision and independent study and must understand that all school assessments and exams may have a bearing on exam outcomes in the summer. Although we have had to postpone the January pre-public exams (PPEs) for Year 11, the March PPEs (for Years 11,12 and 13) will provide the school with the best and most up-to-date evidence of students' achievement and progress in the eventuality that we are required to provide some form of Centre Assessed Grades (as in 2020). **Please note that the application deadline for ECS Sixth Form has been extended to 25th January.**

It is, of course, important that we all play our part in reducing the spread of COVID-19. Although the vaccination programme is underway, schools will only be able to re-open safely if the number of new cases starts to fall and the pressure on the NHS is reduced. Please refer to the latest guidance on what you can and cannot do during the current lockdown: [National lockdown: Stay at Home - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

A reminder that we should all continue to follow NHS and government guidance on self-isolation and testing where symptoms of COVID are present. The most common symptoms of COVID-19 are well known (cough, fever and loss or change of taste or smell) but in December we had students testing positive after displaying a range of symptoms including headaches, stomach cramps, runny nose or diarrhoea. For further information, or to arrange for a COVID-19 test, please refer to www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/

Thank you for your continued support. I am sure that by working together we can continue to keep our community as safe as possible. Please contact info@edact.org.uk with any enquiries.

Yours sincerely

Paul Miller,
Head of School

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