

**Vision:** To inspire students to become **confident, ethical and compelling** individuals with the aspiration and qualities to shape a **better future for all**.

**Values:** Respect, Responsibility, Curiosity and Resilience

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

## Updated Letter regarding the staggered return to school in January 2021 and Mass Covid19 Testing

Dear Parents/Carers,

As I am sure you are aware, the government has updated its guidance regarding the safe re-opening of schools at the start of term 3 in January 2021. Please accept my apologies for the unavoidable changes that we are putting in place. We are dealing with a very fluid situation, as I am sure you will appreciate. Consequently, we will putting the following arrangements in place:

1. Year 11 students will stay at home and will receive online teaching from **8.30am on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> of January**. With your consent, all Year 11 students will have two Covid19 tests. We will contact you with an appointment time for your child to come into school as soon as we have a trained team onsite to carry out the testing. We hope to initiate the testing programme in the week beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.
2. **Year 11 students will return to school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January** to resume their normal timetable through face-to-face teaching.
3. Year 7-10 students begin home learning **for the week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January**. Students will find it very hard to access learning effectively when they return to school if they do not complete the work in an organised and self-disciplined way. We greatly appreciate your support in making sure that learning continues and that students retain their confidence for when they return to school. Please contact Ms Roberts [amy.roberts@foresthgh.org.uk](mailto:amy.roberts@foresthgh.org.uk) and/or myself at [john.whitehead@foresthgh.org.uk](mailto:john.whitehead@foresthgh.org.uk) if home learning is not going to work for your child/children. We are eager to work with you to find a solution. Any students who are struggling to engage with home learning will be required to come into school.
4. **Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students will return to school Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January** and will attend lessons at normal times. With your consent, all Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students will have two Covid19 tests. We will contact you with an appointment time for your child to come into school as soon as we have a trained team onsite to carry out the testing. We hope to initiate the testing programme in the week beginning Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January. It is possible testing will start before this date.
5. All FHS staff will be tested in the week beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January.
6. A cycle of testing for the FHS school community will be established that will make us even safer and more secure over the rest of this academic year.
7. If your child displays Covid19 symptoms, please keep them at home and arrange a test at your nearest test site.



John Whitehead | Headteacher

The Forest High School,  
Causeway Road,  
Cinderford,  
Gloucestershire  
GL14 2AZ

T: 01594 822257

E: [info@foresthgh.org.uk](mailto:info@foresthgh.org.uk)

[www.foresthgh.org.uk](http://www.foresthgh.org.uk)

8. Teachers will set lessons online using Teams. They will follow students' school timetables so your child will have five lessons a day, as they would if they were in school. Your child will find the lesson in the 'general' channel for each subject Team. The lesson will be clearly marked with the date and period and all resources will be attached. An assignment will be set on Teams to go with the lesson for work to be submitted. Many of the lessons will use Oak Academy, an excellent online school which was set up to support remote learning during the pandemic. Students can communicate with their teachers and ask for support with lessons either by using the 'chat' function on Teams or by replying to the lesson in the 'general' channel posts. **The day's lessons will be available on Teams by 8.30am each morning and will need to be completed and work submitted by 6.00pm.** We need to be sure that every child is participating in their schoolwork and not falling behind. We will monitor this via the work that your child submits for their assignments on Teams. **If your child is unable to complete their schoolwork from home, they will need to attend school in person.**

During the period of home learning, we will be maintaining our focus on your children's welfare. Tutors and learning mentors will be in regular contact. Students can use the Teams app to communicate with their tutors and subject teachers. If parents/carers would like support with specific issues they can contact Mr Fisher [david.fisher@foresthg.org.uk](mailto:david.fisher@foresthg.org.uk) and/or Mr Love [andrew.love@foresthg.org.uk](mailto:andrew.love@foresthg.org.uk).

We are currently working with Aramark (FHS Caterers) to ensure that a hot meal is available to all our free school meals and vulnerable students. Please feel free to contact Ms Roberts [amy.roberts@foresthg.org.uk](mailto:amy.roberts@foresthg.org.uk) if you need support with this. If your child is not eligible for free school meals, but you feel you may need extra support, please contact Ms Roberts to discuss how we can help you.

Your support in putting these arrangements in place will be greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully,



John Whitehead  
Headteacher

## HELP SHEET

### Using Xbox/Playstation to access TEAMS for online learning.

#### XBOX (all types)

- 1) From the Home screen, go to the Menu bar;
- 2) Find and select My games and apps;
- 3) Find and select Microsoft Edge
- 4) Click 'see all'
- 5) Go to Apps (left hand menu bar)
- 6) Look for the big blue 'e' icon (Microsoft Edge) and click it
- 7) You can now access all the things you will need using the browser as normal.

#### Playstation (all types):

- 1) Identify the Playstation internet browser icon (it's WWW with dots around it);
- 2) Press the PS4 logo on the controller (or whatever logo is on there);
- 3) Go to the library and find options for games and apps;
- 4) Go in to Applications, where you will find the internet browser;
- 5) You can now use the browser as normal to access all the things you need.

**N.B:** The steps above were tested using an Xbox One and a PS4. If you have a different model of Xbox or Playstation you may find that there are slight differences.

If you have a keyboard, you can plug it into the Xbox/Playstation using the USB slot on your device.