



SIR THOMAS BOTELER

CHURCH OF ENGLAND HIGH SCHOOL

THROUGH GOD, WE CARE

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Diocese of Liverpool

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND

Diocese of Chester

31st December 2020

January restart update 31st December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I really hope you are all well and have managed to have a lovely Christmas holiday period with your precious families. I am so sorry for sending this out now, but it is really important you are up to date with everything and know what is happening. Obviously the announcement only happened yesterday and we were as prepped as we could be until that moment. However, things have changed, and I have to move quickly. The education and safety of all the Boteler Community is paramount and I am doing everything to ensure that this is the case.

It is really important that you read all this information carefully and if there are any questions then please just ask or email me personally bscott-herron@boteler.org.uk and I will do my best to answer them. I have also had to learn and assimilate all the information from the many guidance documents, so I don't profess to be an expert, but I will do my best and if I don't know I will find out for you.

This handbook link below is really useful and something I am using, but it might be wise to have a look at it so you can see what we are working through.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/947799/schools_and_colleges_testing_handbook.pdf

The Lateral Flow Test (which is the test we will be using) is not as invasive as the PCR test and is very quick to administer. This whole process is optional, but I would strongly advise all students to engage and be tested to ensure that no one unknowingly is spreading coronavirus as it will help save lives.

This link is to the most up to date guidance from the government.

[Schools and childcare settings: return in January 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021)

The Primary schools in Warrington are back as normal on Monday 4th January 2021

Monday 4th January 2021 – School is now closed to students including critical worker and vulnerable students while key staff are trained



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The school has been directed to take a logistics day on Monday 4th January 2021 (this has been initiated by the Government) to set up testing arrangements including training and to get all the consent information distributed to the parents/carers. This means that no online learning will take place and that no critical worker or vulnerable children will be in school just for this day. We really appreciate your support with this as you can imagine how complex this all is for us. I know it is short notice, but we have only just had the directive from the Government regarding us to do this. Also, we have to ensure anyone who comes into the school is tested and we are not equipped to do that first thing on Monday as the tests have not been delivered yet.

Tuesday 5th January 2021

Vulnerable, critical worker students and those in the Designated Provision will be tested and back in school along with skeleton staff who will also be tested. Please ensure that you email the school to ensure we know to expect your child on the 5th January 2021 - criticalworkers@boteler.org.uk

All our students (Year 7-11) will be expected to attend virtual school and engaging with "live" online learning from the 5th January 2021. P0 and P6 will still operate for Year 11 students and are compulsory. We are set up and equipped to teach "live" online lessons and we need our young people to be learning.

The vulnerable and critical worker children will be working on computers in room 12 and 13 and will be accessing the learning via Teams. They need to attend school from 8.30am please. The DP children will attend the DP as normal but will remain in the DP for the week rather than going to mainstream lessons. The mainstream lessons for the DP students will be accessed on computers where appropriate. The students also need to be fully equipped for learning. Our teachers will need to be tested and therefore if they are on site teaching in school there will be times when the lesson is not live, but pre-recorded. Please ne understanding about this situation.

Lessons

Students will follow their normal school timetable. Therefore, we expect students to be logging on to Teams and accessing their work as though it was a "normal" school day; following their timetable through Teams. Year 7 students may not be as familiar with this as they were not with us for lockdown and dome have not had to self-isolate. Therefore, please contact Mr Kinsey Deputy Headteacher) and he will support you ckinsey@boteler.org.uk
For any other IT concerns then please email ictsupport@boteler.org.uk



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Please ensure that all students are working from a workbook that is solely for online learning and please reiterate the high expectations of workbook standards that has been communicated out previously. Students need to be putting the subject and date and underlining it and keeping their work neat and tidy. Having one book is crucial to keep their work safe and in one place and then it can be transferred back to school when they return.

Attendance

It is now statutory that we must inform you as parents/carers when your child is not engaging in learning on a remote basis. Registers will be taken, and the teacher will be interacting with your son/daughter. Non-attendance online will be followed up just as it would if they were in school. It is imperative your child attends online. If your child is unwell or can't attend virtual school, then you need to inform us in the usual way please.

A register mark doesn't represent engagement and all students will be questioned in terms of their understanding the content they have engaged with. Where there are concerns about their performance or in the work produced through lesson activities we will be in touch to raise these concerns directly with you.

Testing

We are aiming to test staff weekly and we will put a testing programme together for them that does not disrupt teaching and learning for your child.

We are looking to bring in the Y11 and the Year 10 BTEC exams students in to be tested next week (from the 4th) ready to be taught in school from 11th January 2021. Further information will be communicated after our logistics day as they will all have specific time slots.

Year 7-10 will be tested the week commencing the 11th January 2021 ready to start on 18th January 2021. There will be time slots communicated out to facilitate this.

I will be sending out letters and consent forms regarding the testing from Monday 4th January 2021. However, I would urge that you all engage with the testing programme and consent to your child being tested as it will save lives. The testing is essentially to ensure that we identify those who are asymptomatic. However, if you have symptoms you need to follow the usual guidance and self-isolate. Also, please let us know as we are always able to help and advise. It is really important that you do not come into school at all if you have any symptoms and you will need to go for the usual COVID (PCR) test.



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Year 10 BTEC Examinations

These examinations are going ahead, and the Year 10 students will be expected in school in full uniform with trainers (as they are in the Ball Hall) on these dates:

Friday 8th January 2021 Travel and Tourism. The students will meet in the canteen at 8.30am and they will leave school when their exam is finished.

Monday 11th January 2021 I Media. The students will meet in the canteen at 12.30 pm and they will leave school when their exam is finished.

Thursday 14th January 2021 Hospitality. The students will meet in the canteen at 8.30am and they will leave school when their exam is finished.

More information will be sent out regarding the WA assessments for Year 10 in due course.

FSM

Students on Free School Meals will be able to access vouchers. These vouchers will be sent as soon as possible to the email addresses given during the first lockdown. If your email address has changed, you weren't registered for the first scheme or you are the parent of a Year 7 students eligible for Free School Meals, please contact Mr Frodsham our Business Manager by emailing fsm@boteler.org.uk. Please email this address if you are struggling to access your vouchers.

I appreciate this is not an ideal situation, but I can assure you we are doing everything to make it work as effectively and efficiently as possible, but also keeping everyone as safe as possible. Your support and understanding is very much appreciated and I will always keep you updated. All the links, letters and forms will be on our website under January reopening 2021 in the next few days but I am sure you can appreciate it is New Year's Eve.

Please may I take this opportunity to wish you all a peaceful and safe New Year and I will be in touch again very soon.

Kind regards,

Beverley Scott-Herron

Headteacher



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