



HEATHLANDS

Nursery, Primary and Secondary Provision, Day & Residential
BSL Training & Resource Centre



Co-Head Teachers – Mrs L Reeves Costi and Mrs S Shields

31 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We are sure you are aware of the Government's announcement last night regarding a later start for secondary schools with the increased Covid infection rate. Some primary schools in higher risk areas will also be learning remotely although St Albans is not one of those areas.

As Heathlands pupils have EHCPs they are all classed as vulnerable and expected to attend face to face lessons. However, we both feel strongly that operating both primary and secondary, plus boarding where children come from a range of areas, it would not be safe to open until we have the mass testing programme in place.

On Monday all schools will receive Lateral Flow Testing kits which will enable us to test all students and staff for Covid19 with test results within 30 minutes. This will enable any asymptomatic people to be identified and therefore isolate immediately. The aim of these tests is to ensure education continues with minimal disruption.

However, the Government has not yet set up training for administering the tests and we would also require parental consent to test your child. As well as reviewing the risk assessment and establishing testing centres/bays, there is much to be done.

Therefore, for the week beginning Monday 4th January 2021, all Heathlands students are to remain at home and work remotely. Lessons will be set up every day using EduLink, Google Classroom and Zoom and your child is expected to attend and complete all work set that week. This is especially important for Year 10 and 11 who are working towards their examinations.

Please ensure your taxi is aware your child will be remote learning at home for the coming week.

If you are a key worker or you feel your child needs to receive face to face learning, we will have a small team of staff in school to enable this, so please email the school office if this is required for Monday 4th January 2021. Key worker and vulnerable children can only attend if they are fit and well with no Covid symptoms within their household.

We will be in touch with you next week to explain the new testing system and to gain your consent as well as sharing plans for opening to all students again once testing is in place and staff have received training. We hope to return to face to face learning from 11th January 2021 and will keep you informed.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Yours sincerely

Lesley Reeves Costi and Sarah Shields
Co-Head Teachers