

**The Marches School**

part of the Marches Academy Trust  
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4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Reference: Update on education for the first 6 weeks of term**

Dear Parent/Carer,

Following the Government announcement at 8pm tonight, which included guidance on school closure, we wanted to update you on how we will continue to educate your child.

There was much in the announcement that may have created both anxiety and relief. We aim to provide as clear a picture as possible through the next few weeks to support you and your child.

The announcement mentioned changes to summer examinations, we will share details of this as soon as we have it. We will be contacting separately all students expecting to sit an external exam next week, when we are confident that we have the accurate picture.

**What will happen from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021?**

On Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January, children of **critical** workers, where a place has been requested on the form at [this link](#) (the government's definition of a critical worker can be found [here](#)), and those individually contacted classed as vulnerable (the government's definition of a vulnerable child worker can be found [here](#)), will return to school for a full time, on-site provision. Students should line up at 8.40am as normal.

In addition – if remote learning is not possible due to poor connectivity or a lack of equipment – your child may attend school. Please complete the critical worker [form](#) to let us know to expect them.

If you are in the groups above and your circumstances have altered, and you now wish to take up one of these places – please fill in the form as soon as possible to allow us to plan for the correct staffing levels on site.

Students in school will be following the normal school day, working in computer rooms to access online learning from their teachers as well as enjoying their normal social time.

Students arriving on Tuesday should go to their normal lines where staff will be waiting for them.

For support with equipment for remote learning – please contact [pritchard.d@mar.mmat.org.uk](mailto:pritchard.d@mar.mmat.org.uk)

**How will learning continue for students not in school?**

All students in all year groups will continue to receive live learning via remote education on Teams.

On the occasions where a teacher is not available to deliver live learning – lessons resources will still be provided; Students can request support through Teams in those lessons but will need to wait for a reply.

At the start of each lesson, it will be clear if that lesson is “live” or “remote”.

All students are therefore expected to follow their normal timetable of 5 lessons each day and a

register will be taken for each session.

Parents are able to monitor their child's engagement with online learning using the Arbor app as staff will be grading students who do not engage as a "3" for lesson grading.

If you need support with logging onto and downloading the Arbor parent's app – please contact reception.

### **How long will my child be learning through Teams?**

The announcement shared that this would remain the case until at least February half term – a 6-week period.

Our Heads of Academic Progress are already working on setting up Year group Team spaces to communicate with their year groups and you can be assured that we will also be running our House events as we did last summer – please encourage your child to get involved beyond their lessons to maintain their interaction with school life and support wellbeing.

### **Will school transport still run?**

Yes – our minibuses will all run their usual routes each morning and at the end of the day. All other buses are service buses. We anticipate these will all continue.

### **Will my child still receive free school meals?**

Students in school will have money loaded onto their account in the usual way. All other students' families will receive a voucher – as happened today. If the restaurant team, who are not part of the school staff, should return to furlough, we will communicate this to parents and will revert to vouchers for all families.

### **Testing for Covid-19**

All planning for mass testing is now paused until further guidance from government.

Our thanks to all our families for your continued support, it makes all the difference.

If you feel the school can support in any way further, please do get in touch.

Yours sincerely,



Alison Pearson  
Headteacher