



4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents / Carers

First of all, a Happy New Year to you all and welcome back to the Spring Term of the 2020/21 academic year.

I apologise for having to write to you over the Christmas break; I wanted to give as much notice as possible to the changes enforced on school operations by the Government, to allow for you to make suitable arrangements and to keep you abreast of developments.

As I am sure you are no doubt aware from the media, the situation in schools is very dynamic and changes are made rapidly, impacting on what we do and how we do it. These changes come to me with very little notice so at times I will write to you, only for this to be changed shortly after.

I can foresee that there may still be changes over the coming days and weeks ahead. Where these changes have significant impact on school operations, I will keep you informed.

In my letter dated 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020, I referred to the link to provide consent for testing. As I stated in my letter, testing is voluntary. You only need to complete the form to opt in. If you do not wish for your child to take part in testing then please do not complete the form. Students and parents will not be pressured into it.

The purpose of this new testing process is a requirement from the Government for all schools to operate a COVID Testing Centre to support NHS Test and Trace.

The purpose is to keep as many students in schools, safely, as far as practicably possible. If students test negative then this prevents whole groups of students isolating for weeks at a time. I cannot currently, offer the flexibility of providing consent at different time periods, due to the link up work with NHS Test and Trace.

The deadline for registering is Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm. Anyone not registered at this point, we will assume consent has not been granted and students will therefore follow self-isolation procedures as outlined by the Government, if identified as close contacts. I have attached, with this letter, the process for testing to support you in deciding whether or not to consent. It is important to note, students will administer the test themselves under supervision from an adult.

Finer details of testing arrangements are still being negotiated at national level. As soon as I have the final determined arrangements I shall let you know.

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To assist with the COVID Testing Centre, we are being asked to recruit volunteers from our community, in the first instance, to get the facility up and running. If you are able to volunteer some time with this or can pass on our request to others, this would be greatly appreciated. Full training will be given. If you would like to discuss this further, would like further information or could offer some support, please contact Mrs Coleman on 01623 464220 or [scoleman@garibaldschool.co.uk](mailto:scoleman@garibaldschool.co.uk)

If you have registered for the keyworker provision, a colleague will be in touch with you with further details. If any parent is a keyworker and still requires the use of this provision, please email [office@garibaldschool.co.uk](mailto:office@garibaldschool.co.uk) with your child's details and your keyworker information and we will be in touch with you.

Online learning commences for **all year groups** on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. All students have received a thorough induction on how to access our remote provision. Students should follow their usual timetable for the day. There is no mentor time in the morning, lessons will commence at 9:10 Monday – Thursday and 8:35 on Friday. There will be live elements to all lessons so it is important students attend on time.

Lessons will finish five minutes before their timetabled finish times to allow students the opportunity to move between rooms and have a short break away from the screen in between. Breaks and lunches are at the same time as per their timetable. For Year 11 students, Period 7 is still operating as per student timetables.

For students in Years 10 to 13, Mr Dawson is emailing students with the timetable for vocational exams and masterclass times and arrangements, for those students involved in these.

Mentors will be available Monday to Thursday, between 8:45am and 9:00am if students have any questions or require any support. If, as parents, you have any questions, please direct these in the first instance to your child's mentor. Contact details can be found here: <https://www.garibaldschool.co.uk/page.php?p=staff>

I thank you for your ongoing support and will keep you updated if and when changes are made.

Best wishes for now.

Yours faithfully



Mr J Aldred  
Head of School