

31 December 2020



Headteacher:
Dr R P Petrie BSc PhD

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you had a restful and enjoyable Christmas break and we all hope that 2021 is a better experience for everyone in our school community.

I am writing to briefly update you on yesterday's announcements by the government on the return to school for secondary age children following the latest increase in COVID-19 cases and the movement of Cumbria into Tier 4 as of 00:01 today (31 December 2020). Please note that this information has changed from that which we sent you at the end of last term.

Following clarification from the Department for Education (DfE) this morning, the staggered start to the spring term has been changed so that we can begin planning for the routine testing of staff and students. Information regarding testing, consent requirements, etc. will be sent out to you during the week commencing 4 January 2021. As previously communicated, we will offer an on-site hub for vulnerable children and those of critical workers from Tuesday 5 January 2021; Mr Milledge has been coordinating this and a survey assessing need was sent to parents before Christmas.

Monday 4 January 2021 remains a staff training day and the school is closed to all students.

Having consulted the various guidance documents from the DfE and met with senior colleagues today, the situation for students at Cockermouth School from Tuesday 5 January 2021 is as follows:

Vulnerable students/children of critical workers (through prior agreement with school):

w/c 5 January: Access the on-site school hub

w/c 11 January: Access the on-site school hub (Year 11 and 13 students in the hub will rejoin normal lessons)

w/c 18 January: Return to normal lessons

Students in Years 11 and 13:

w/c 5 January: Remote education provided – priority

w/c 11 January: Return to school - normal lessons and testing starting

w/c 18 January: Return to school - normal lessons

Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12:

w/c 5 January: Remote education provided (priority given to Years 11 and 13 but learning provided for all year groups)

w/c 11 January: Remote education provided

w/c 18 January: Return to school - normal lessons and testing starting

Please note that all students will need to check their timetables on Tuesday 5 January 2021 as there may have been changes since last term. As per our previous communication regarding expectations during remote learning, ALL students will need to be ready to register with their form tutors at 08:40 on Tuesday 5 January 2021 and complete all lesson assignments.

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I should stress that this is the situation as it currently stands and it is changing on a daily basis; following yesterday's announcements, the Secretary of State made further statements and released further documentation this morning. We hope that there will not be any major changes to the operation of the school between now and next Monday but we are having to respond to a fast-moving situation and your patience is greatly appreciated.

On behalf of everyone at Cockermonth School, thank you for your ongoing support throughout the challenges of 2020 and we wish you and your family a safe and peaceful new year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rob Petrie', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Dr Rob Petrie
Headteacher