



# Beauchamps High School

Business and Enterprise  
Centre of Excellence for Learning



29 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have managed to make the best of the current situation and have had a wonderful Christmas.

Since I last wrote to you, we have seen some significant changes, including the introduction of Tier 4 restrictions in our area, and we continue to see an alarmingly high number of Covid 19 cases in the Basildon district. Therefore, I would please encourage you to have your children tested for Covid 19 at one of the local test sites before they return to school.

Can I also please remind you that all secondary schools in our district have been asked by the Local Authority to make **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January a remote learning day** for all students in all year groups. This will enable us to ascertain the Covid situation and to make the relevant plans for re-opening the following day.

As I explained in my last letter dated 18<sup>th</sup> December, the government is asking all secondary schools to stagger the return to school for students in different year groups when we return from the Christmas holidays. I explained how disappointed I was with the late notice of this announcement.

The reason for this staggered approach, is to allow secondary schools to plan for the introduction for the mass testing programme in schools. The logistical planning required for this is substantial, and the Local Authority have promised all head teachers that we will have a countywide approach to this. We have worked on this over the break, but we still have several issues to resolve, and I am yet to receive information from the government on when and how we will receive the huge number of testing kits required. Also, the staff involved will need comprehensive training before testing can begin.

Given the new Tier 4 guidance, the level of uncertainty around the arrival of testing kits, the training needed for staff involved and the continued increasing numbers of Covid in our area, I feel I have no choice but to adopt the staggered approach to returning to school after the Christmas break. This will create the staff capacity to plan and train for the implementation of this mass testing programme in school. The staggered return will be as follows, also please note all external exams will run as planned in January:

- Year 10-13 return Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January
- Year 7-9 return Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January

Year 7-9 will have a full provision of remote learning, as we had for the two weeks before the Christmas break, starting Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January. We will be offering provision in school from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January for Years 7-9, if both parents in a household are key workers, if you wish to access this provision please email Mr Windeatt at [dwindeatt@beauchamps.essex.sch.uk](mailto:dwindeatt@beauchamps.essex.sch.uk).

I sincerely apologise for the disruption this staggered start may cause your family, but I have no choice but to follow the government guidance on this. I hope you and your family enjoy the remainder of the Christmas break and wish you all a happy and healthy new year.

Yours faithfully

**Mat Harper**  
Headteacher

Beauchamps Drive, Wickford, Essex, SS11 8LY  
Telephone: 01268 735466 Facsimile: 01268 570981  
Email: [admin@beauchamps.essex.sch.uk](mailto:admin@beauchamps.essex.sch.uk)

Web address: [www.beauchamps.essex.sch.uk](http://www.beauchamps.essex.sch.uk) Twitter: [@Beauchampssch](https://twitter.com/Beauchampssch)

[www.beauchamps.essex.sch.uk/gdpr/](http://www.beauchamps.essex.sch.uk/gdpr/)  
Headteacher: Mr M Harper BA Hons NPQH