



Sir Graham Balfour School

Member of Sir Graham Balfour Multi-Academy Trust

31st December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to start by wishing you all a Happy New Year, hoping it will bring us all much better fortune than 2020 did.

As you will be aware, the Government just yesterday put out new instruction regarding the start of the new term. I will write to you early next week with more details about the Covid testing system we have been asked to set up. In the meantime, please note the following, whilst also recognising that this guidance might change in the coming days and weeks:

The week commencing 4th January:

- The vast majority of students will be required to work from home. Please note, this also includes Years 11 and 13. As last lockdown, we will be sticking to our timetable, with teachers setting work for each lesson, and being available to contact throughout each lesson time.
- ***Only vulnerable children and the children of critical workers are allowed in school for this week.*** Buses will run as normal for these children. These children will continue to work in their individual year bubbles, but with so few students in school, they will be able to maintain strict social distancing. All students and staff will continue to wear their face coverings at all times inside the building. The canteen will have a very limited menu available for this week, and children will not be required to wear uniform for this week only. If you have limited access to a computer/internet, then please contact us at Office@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk and we will be pleased to post out work for your children.
- Please do not send in children of any age who do not belong in the above mentioned groups as the rules on this are strict and we will have to send them home.

The week commencing 11th January:

- Students from Year 11 and 13 *only* are expected back in school. All other students, apart from vulnerable children and the children of critical workers, will continue to work remotely from home, as above.

The week commencing 18th January:

- All students are expected to be back in school, in full uniform, wearing their face coverings at all times inside the building.

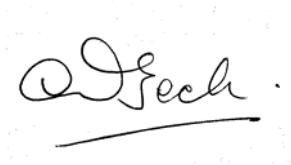
The following is the link from the Department for Education which was published yesterday evening, should you wish to look at it. [Schools and childcare settings: return in January 2021 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021)

For parents of Year 11 students studying BTEC Childcare and/or Music – please note that these exams will go ahead and we will be in touch with your children about the arrangements for this next week.

I will leave it there for now. If you have any questions about any of the above, please do not hesitate to contact us at office@sirgrahambalfour.staffs.sch.uk and we will respond to you as soon as we can early next week.

Many thanks for your ongoing support in these very difficult times. I am hugely optimistic that better days are ahead of us and that we will see a return to normality in the coming months.

My best wishes to you and your families

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Beck', with a horizontal line drawn underneath it.

Lesley Beck
Headteacher