



31st December 2020

Important Update: Start of Term, January 2021

Dear Parents & Carers,

Following the Government's announcements on 30th December, I write to inform you of our arrangements for the term ahead. This signals the third change to the start of the Spring Term and replaces all previous letters sent before Christmas.

Spring Term – Important Updates

The latest changes further delay in-school education, with most students learning from home during the first 2 weeks of term. These measures are designed to reduce the transmission of Covid-19 and provide time for schools to establish a fully staffed Covid-19 Testing Centre. **All students will have returned to face-to-face education by Monday 18th January following the phased return in the initial weeks** (see table below).

Owing to the hard work of LCA staff in recent days, we have organised a Testing Centre on the school site, located in our Sports Hall. During the first week, we will undertake training and receive test kits and PPE and begin testing students and staff in school. We will communicate our arrangements to test all students returning to the academy and obtain parental consent.

During the week beginning 11th January, we will provide scheduled appointments for students to attend school for their lateral flow test. On-site rapid testing of staff and students is intended to identify positive cases and minimise disruption to your child's education in the Spring Term. Lincolnshire County Council have confirmed that all school transport services will run as planned from the start of term and can be used by students eligible to attend school. However, parents will need to make arrangements to transport their child for their scheduled test as transport will only run at the usual times at the start and end of the school day.

As detailed in the table below, the return to face-to-face education will be staggered until all students return on 18th January. Work will be set using the school's online platform: Show My Homework. If your child is experiencing difficulties accessing remote education, please use the enquiries email or telephone: 01522 529203 to request support. It is vital that students complete the work set to continue the taught curriculum and ensure their ambitions can be realised.

From the start of term (5th January), full time in-school provision will be in place for the children of critical workers and for those children identified as 'vulnerable'. Please confirm your intention to send your child to school from 5th January by sending an email to: enquiries@lincolncastleacademy.co.uk by 3rd January. This information will allow us to plan for your child's safe return and organise learning support and supervision during our Staff Inset Day on 4th January. Students who are not attending school but are eligible for a free school meal will be provided with a weekly food parcel. Further information will follow at the start of term.

The table below outlines the arrangements for the first 3 weeks of term:

	In-school	Learning from home (remote education)
Week 1 5.1.21 Monday 4 th = Staff Inset	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children of 'Critical Workers' attend school Children assessed as 'vulnerable' attend school All external exams will continue this week. All students must attend at the required time. Year 10 & Year 11 Engineering students should attend school for a revision day, beginning at 9am on Friday 8th January ahead of their exam on the 12th. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 students will receive work for all subjects via SMHW, alongside 'live' online lessons. Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 & Year 10 students will receive the week's work for each subject via SMHW. Each tutor group (all years) will have a weekly online tutor session (details to follow).
Week 2 11.1.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children of 'Critical Workers' attend school Children assessed as 'vulnerable' attend school All external exams will continue this week. All students must attend at the required time. <p>+ Year 11 students attend school + Year 13 students attend school</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Year 12 students will receive work for all subjects, including 'live' online lessons. Year 7, Year 8, Year 9 & Year 10 students will receive the week's work for each subject via SMHW. Each tutor group (Years 7,8,9,10,12) will have a weekly online tutor session (details to follow)
Week 3 18.1.21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children of 'Critical Workers' attend school Children assessed as 'vulnerable' attend school Year 11 & Year 13 students attend school All external exams will continue this week. All students must attend at the required time. <p>+ Face-to-face education for all students begins. <u>All students attend school.</u></p>	<p>Please note, the Government has made it clear that plans from 18th January could change in response to transmission rates in our region.</p>

Covid-19 Update

Since my last communication on 18th December, no further cases of Covid-19 amongst LCA students have been reported. There have been no confirmed cases amongst LCA staff. Nonetheless, our region's move to tier 4 and the associated transmission rates are concerning. We begin the new term with a continued determination to prioritise the safety of our school community with all control measures remaining in place, including face masks, staggered arrival and departure times and stringent cleaning throughout the day.

We also request your continued support in keeping our school community safe. Please continue to inform us of confirmed/ suspected cases of Covid-19 so we can act quickly. Families should continue to follow the stay-at-home guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-home-guidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection>. Your child will not be able to attend school and will be required to self-isolate if they:

- have had symptoms or a positive test result themselves
- live with someone who has symptoms or has tested positive
- are a close contact of someone who has coronavirus (COVID-19) and are requested to do so by NHS Test and Trace or the Public Health England (PHE) advice service

Further updates and information will be provided next week when staff will be available to respond to any questions you or your child may have.

As 2020 draws to a close, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all health, happiness and many reasons to be cheerful in the year ahead.

Yours faithfully,
Mrs Laming
Headteacher