

# CITY OF DERBY ACADEMY

Farmhouse Road, Sinfin, Derby DE24 3AR  
Tel: 01332 270 450 Email: admin@cityofderbyacademy.org  
Web: www.cityofderbyacademy.org  
Headteacher: Mr P Smith



Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

## IMPORTANT Changes to the January 2021 School Opening Plans at CODA

I hope that you are having a great Christmas break and staying safe in these most challenging times.

Since my last letter dated Tuesday 28th December 2020, the Prime Minister and Minister for Education have changed their advice and guidance for schools to open in the New Year.

Therefore, I am sharing what CODA's updated plans are for January 2021.

Schools have been asked to establish Lateral Flow Device testing in schools as soon as possible. This is designed to allow more staff and students access to face-to-face schooling when they have been identified as a close or proximity contact as well identifying members of the community who could be asymptomatic. As you will appreciate, this will take a lot of planning and preparation. This too was recognised by the Prime Minister who has put in place the following timeline.

- Students in **Year 7, 8, 9 and 10** will be learning remotely from home until week commencing Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- Students in **Year 11** will be learning remotely from home until week commencing Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of January 2021.
- There will be a provision available for critical worker children and vulnerable children from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021. We will be alerting the relevant families to this on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 (INSET Day).

There is lots of guidance and advice to remind students how to access remote learning at home. This is on the school website [www: https://www.cityofderbyacademy.org/remote-learning/](https://www.cityofderbyacademy.org/remote-learning/) If you are still having difficulties accessing remote learning please do not hesitate to contact the school.

If you believe your child qualifies as a critical worker child and you would like to access the school provision from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> to Friday 15<sup>th</sup> January 2021, please contact the school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

When students return to face-to-face learning, social distancing guidelines will still be in place. This includes wearing face coverings. Can you please support the school by ensuring your child has a face covering and wears it in all relevant areas of the school.

## Mass testing programme

I am positive about the potential for the mass testing of pupils and staff in schools, as a way of reducing the spread of the virus and enabling fewer pupils and staff to self-isolate.

The plan is for all students and staff to have access to free Lateral Flow tests before they start back to school.

This will identify members of the school community who are asymptomatic, so will help reduce the spread of the virus.

The guidance I have received so far is very complex and will take time to set up properly. I will let you know more about our plans as soon as we can in January. In the meantime, from the start of next term, we will continue to implement the safety measures we have been using in the autumn term.

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Smith', written in a cursive style.

**Mr P Smith**  
**Headteacher**