



**Principal:** Helen Corbett

## **Staggered Start to the Spring Term and Rapid Testing Update**

21 December 2020

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you continue to be well and your children are enjoying the start of their well-earned Christmas break.

Following on from the letter I sent to you on Thursday 17 December I write to provide you with an update on our plans at George Spencer Academy to accommodate the latest government directives. Alongside these directives, the government states that, all children should continue to comply with the rules set out for Tier 3 and they ask parents to help ensure their children are following the rules.

### **Staggered Start to Spring Term**

**Monday 4 January remains an INSET day as planned.** From Tuesday 5 January to Friday 8 January the school will be open for face-to-face education for Year 11, Year 13 and those classed as vulnerable or critical keyworker children.

**If your child is in Year 11 or Year 13,** they should arrive to school as normal on Tuesday 5 January. Our systems and processes in school remain the same for them and they will continue to follow their normal timetable.

**If your child falls into the vulnerable or critical key worker category** please follow the below link to register your child to attend school for the first week back (excluding Monday 4 January). The children in these categories should arrive to school at 9:15am and go to the following areas on arrival:

Year 7 – go to the designated Year 7 outdoor area.

Year 8 – go to the designated Year 8 outdoor area.

Year 9 – go to the outdoor benched area in their bubble.

Year 10 – go to the outdoor area outside the sports hall.

These students will be based in IT rooms within their normal bubbles and zones and will engage in the remote learning offer being provided. They will have support from teachers and support staff. Their school day will end at 3:05pm.

Link to register your child to attend the vulnerable/critical key worker offer: <https://forms.gle/nnNbr8RHvQK59GRY7>

**If your child is in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 or 12** they will be learning remotely from Tuesday 5 January until Friday 8 January. Our teachers will provide lessons that will match their normal timetable and which follow the curriculum maps for their subjects. Our remote learning offer utilises Google classroom as the platform for delivery. Classwork will be assigned to each classroom and assessed in multiple ways. For students in Years 10 or 12, lessons will be delivered by video. This may be a pre-recorded lesson or live using Google Meet. Students in all years should follow their normal timetable, as lessons will be delivered and work assessed during the time indicated. This is especially important for those in Years 10 and 12 who may be required to join a live lesson through a Google Meet link at a specific time. If any student has forgotten their password for the Google apps they must use the following form to have it reset <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdZe3qNVI6frxg1nNPgchfPEkxTRqBO8ah-G2h2a8Stadf7mQ/viewform>.

If you wish for your child to receive paper-based learning and you have not been contacted by the end of Monday 4 January please contact Miss J Gordon, Vice Principal of Quality of Education ([jjgordon@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:jjgordon@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)).

## Rapid Testing in Secondary Schools

You may know through the recent media coverage that the government is introducing lateral flow testing in schools. These rapid tests are being offered by schools to as many secondary age students and staff as possible starting from the beginning of the spring term. The aim of the testing is to help keep schools open throughout the spring term and ensure they are safe and as COVID secure as possible. The testing will be optional but is strongly encouraged by the government. At the time of writing, we are awaiting further guidance on the next steps we need to take as a school to effectively put this in place. I will contact you again in the new year as soon as we have the details and plans in place.

For now, I would like to make a plea for any **DBS approved volunteers** who would be willing to support the school with rapid testing. If you are able to support us please email Mr Dakers our Assistant Principal responsible for Safeguarding ([jdakers@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk](mailto:jdakers@george-spencer.notts.sch.uk)) with your name, contact details, and days/times you would be able to volunteer.

Finally, from George Spencer Academy we wish you all a Merry Christmas and will be in touch with you again in the new year.

Yours sincerely

Mrs H Corbett  
Principal