



31st December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Returning to school in January

Despite the disruption during this Christmas break, I hope you had a chance to rest and relax. I am writing to you today with a further update, as yesterday afternoon we were told by the Department for Education (DfE) that there will be a change in arrangements for the return to school over the next few weeks. We apologise for the late notification of these changes; we are sharing this with you as quickly as we can.

In summary - as before,

- We have an INSET day in place for all students on Monday 4th January
- Sixth form students who are taking vocational examinations are to return from Tuesday 5th January as originally planned
- Students whose parents are key workers or who are determined by the DfE as 'vulnerable' are to attend school as originally planned from Tuesday 5th January. Please check the attached information provided for further guidance on this.

However, there is now a change for the following students,

- Students in an examination year (Year 10, Year 11, Year 12, Year 13) whose parents are not key workers and are not determined by the DfE as 'vulnerable', will access their normal lessons remotely from Tuesday 5th until Friday 8th January. They are required to return to school in person on Monday 11th January.
- All other students **with access to devices** (Year 7 – 9) will now have their normal lessons from Tuesday 5th until Friday 15th January delivered remotely. They are required to return to school in person on Monday 18th January.
- Children without a device are deemed by the DfE as "vulnerable" and therefore are required to return to school in person on Tuesday 5th January.
- Workpacks are now only available for students that are self-isolating and unable to attend. We require your NHS notification message to confirm this.

Executive Principal – Mr Ian Simpson Principal – Miss Tina Lee

Minster Campus: Minster Road, Minster-on-Sea, ME12 3JQ
Sheerness Campus: Marine Parade, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 2BE
Tel. 01795 873 591

www.oasisacademyisleofsheppey.org

The DfE has explained that the purpose of this change is for two reasons:

1. To create a bigger gap of time between young people mixing at Christmas and returning to school, reducing the risk of those who have Covid-19 but no symptoms of sharing the infection
2. To allow schools more time to set up Covid-19 testing for students. The reason for more testing is that it will mean that it will be possible to identify those with the virus but without symptoms so that they can self-isolate, minimising the spread of the virus and the disruption caused.

Covid-19 testing within school

We are currently developing our plans for delivering Covid-19 testing for both students and staff. We will be in touch with you again next week when we know more about our local arrangements, and how we will gather your permission and consent for your child to be tested ahead of them returning to school. We will also explain arrangements for those who do not consent to the testing.

It is of the utmost importance that we plan, implement and then assess how best we can deliver Covid-19 testing within school. To do this we will take the next fortnight to ensure everything is in place, and that we have received your consent. Please note therefore, that we will not be testing any young people before Monday 18th January.

What do I do now?

If you are a key worker or your young person meets the DfE criteria listed in the guidance provided with this letter, and they are well and do not have any Covid-19 symptoms (or are in a self-isolation period due to a confirmed case of Covid-19), please ensure that they attend school from Tuesday 5th January.

If your young person is not eligible to come to school next week, please check the following sections on Free School Meals and Access to Remote Learning.

Free School Meals

If your young person receives free school meals, but they are not eligible to come to school next week (only children of key workers or those deemed 'vulnerable' are eligible), then they will be able to collect a hamper from next Tuesday from the Academy.

Executive Principal – Mr Ian Simpson Principal – Miss Tina Lee

Minster Campus: Minster Road, Minster-on-Sea, ME12 3JQ
Sheerness Campus: Marine Parade, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 2BE
Tel. 01795 873 591

www.oasisacademyisleofsheppey.org

Access to Remote Learning

If your young person is being asked to access remote learning please see the guidance on remote learning below.

Due to the nature of change we are currently finalising timetable arrangements for online learning. These will be available on the academy website throughout this period. We will inform you when this is available to view.

All online lessons will be delivered live by academy teachers via Microsoft Teams. Your child may or may not have their regular teacher during this period. They are to follow the timetable that will be placed on the website. A register will be taken for every lesson, and you will be informed if your child has not engaged fully throughout.

If your child requires help with their login and password please email servicedesk@oasisuk.org. Additional information on remote learning can be viewed from our website <https://www.oasisacademyisleofsheppey.org/curriculum/online-learning>

If your young person has any difficulty in accessing remote learning, please be in touch with us directly.

We look forward to seeing all eligible students at the Academy from Tuesday 5th January at 8:30am and all other students online.

We understand that this is a lot of information take on board, we will be in touch again next week with further information on Covid-19 testing and your consent, and we will also be publishing updates on our website in due course. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Lee".

Tina Lee
Principal, Oasis Academy Isle of Sheppey

Executive Principal – Mr Ian Simpson Principal – Miss Tina Lee

Minster Campus: Minster Road, Minster-on-Sea, ME12 3JQ
Sheerness Campus: Marine Parade, Sheerness, Kent, ME12 2BE
Tel. 01795 873 591

www.oasisacademyisleofsheppey.org