



**Fairfield  
High School**

*Achieving Excellence*

Allfoxton Road  
Horfield  
Bristol  
BS7 9NL  
Tel: 0117 952 7100  
www.fairfield.bristol.sch.uk  
enquiries@fairfield.excalibur.org.uk  
Twitter@FHSBristol  
Facebook Fairfield High School – FHS

18th December 2020

## **Principals Update 18<sup>th</sup> December: INSET day on January 4<sup>th</sup>, Government Guidance and Testing including vouchers for Free School Meals, Reporting COVID cases over the holiday**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am truly sorry to have to contact you at such short notice about the following items, but I hope you will appreciate that I have only been given, in my view, unacceptably short notice myself by the Department for Education.

### **Government Guidance and Testing including vouchers for Free School Meals**

As you might be aware, the government issued guidance yesterday at 5.25pm that schools need to operate a phased return of students to school in January. ([Link to schools guidance](#) )

This has come as a complete surprise to school leaders, as only this week the government were seeking legal action against schools that attempted to shorten this term.

The guidance will mean that in the first week back we will be offering:

- Live lessons in school for Year 11 and any Key Worker / Vulnerable (KWV) children, from January 5<sup>th</sup> onwards.
- All other students in Year 7 -10 will access a full days remote learning from January 5<sup>th</sup> and should remain at home until January 11<sup>th</sup>. Free School Meal vouchers will be posted out for the start of Term for those entitled to them.
- All students in all year groups will be able return to school on January 11<sup>th</sup> when optional testing will happen for any students identified as close contacts of confirmed COVID cases, should those students want to access live provision in school.

## January 4<sup>th</sup> is an INSET day

The government also announced at the same time that school would need to undertake optional mass testing of staff and students. The priority groups are identified as Year 11, KVV children and staff in Week 1, along with others if possible. In the second week of term this will switch to optional testing of all close contacts in all Year groups and staff. We will be in touch, in due course, with more information.

As of writing this letter, the government have not issued any detailed guidance about testing, which means I have limited details to share but would reassure you that any testing is optional. Of course, we are expecting many parents will want their child to access the testing and so, we want to be as well prepared as possible to enable this in the first week back. To support this, Excalibur Academies Trust, in line with government guidance, have agreed to additional INSET on January 4<sup>th</sup> for all secondary schools in the Trust, including ours. This will mean that school will not operate for students on January 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a change to our published calendar.

### How do I report a COVID case over the holidays?

As you may be aware, the government has asked school leaders to continue to Track and Trace for positive cases in the Xmas holidays, for six days after the last day of students being in school. After that point, contact tracing will be handled by NHS Track and Trace until the new term starts on January 4<sup>th</sup>. Below is a table setting out who you should contact on which date:

Date:	Who do I inform?
<a href="#">From 16/12/2020 to 22/12/2020</a> <b>Inform School</b>	<b>Email:</b> <a href="mailto:response@fairfield.excalibur.org.uk">response@fairfield.excalibur.org.uk</a> This will be checked each day between <b>9 am and 10am until 22nd December</b> . Parents of any close contacts only will be informed by parent mail. Please do not phone in to school to report positive cases, use the above email address.
<a href="#">23/12/2020 -03/01/2021</a> <b>Use NHS Track and Trace</b>	Service will be provided by NHS Track and Trace who will seek contacts directly from positive cases. Do not inform school until January 4 <sup>th</sup> .
<a href="#">04/01/2020 onwards</a> <b>Inform School</b>	Normal service resumes in school and we can be informed via reception or our absence line.

Best wishes,

Nick Lewis  
Principal

### An International Academy

Principal: **Mr Nick Lewis**  
Excalibur Academies Trust: a company limited by guarantee  
Registered in England: Company Number: 08146633  
Registered Office: Granham Hill, Marlborough, Wiltshire SN8 4AX

