



Dear Parent/Carer

Firstly, I hope you have all managed to stay safe and enjoy a good Christmas. In keeping with the spirit of 2020, we knew that the year would throw another curve ball at us all and here we are, in tier 4 and facing delays to the 'normal' start of the January term.

You may have spent the evening trying to work out what the announcements mean for you regarding the return to school and, I have to admit, we were just as baffled by some of it at first. We wanted to get our plans out to you as soon as possible so that you can all make any adjustments, but also enjoy the start to the new year safe in the knowledge that you know what will be happening from Tuesday 5th January.

We are passionate about the progress of all of our students and when we read that the first week back would initially be about offering face to face learning for a small number of students and not the rest, we didn't see that as fair. Many of you are working parents/carers and will be dreading what to do in the first week back to occupy your daughter/son, especially as we are now in tier 4! We hope that the following plans for our return will allay some of those fears and also help us to move to the 'normal' return to school from Monday 18th January.

Our plans for the next two weeks are as follows:

1. Monday 4th January remains our INSET day so school will not be open for normal lessons. If you are a KEY WORKER and require child care that day, please contact us ASAP so that we can meet your needs. Emails for this should be sent to k.beale@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk and Miss Beale will book your place. If you are a KEY WORKER and require a school place from Tuesday, please contact Miss Beale on the same email to let her know which days you need.
2. Tuesday 5th January will have ALL STUDENTS online following their normal timetable. It is WEEK B. Students should log on using Google Meet and teachers will be leading live lessons. We will have a brief tutor period at 9.00 and tutors will share links for students to log on each morning.
3. We will be providing supervision and school based support for any of our more vulnerable students. They will all have in-school access to ICT support as well as any learning support. This will be done using effective social distancing. We do need to stress that these students will form a new temporary bubble in school for the two week period. Mrs Dixon-Gough and Miss Beale are contacting parents today who qualify for this support.
4. The school day will be simplified so that we have RFL from 9.00 – 9.10. P1 is 9.10 – 10.10, P2 is 10.10 – 11.10, P3 is 11.35 – 12.35 and we then have lunch from 12.35 – 1.05. P4 is 1.05 – 2.05 and P5 is 2.05 – 3.05.

Mitcheldean, Gloucestershire, GL17 0DU

Tel: 01594 542370

Fax: 01594 544862

website: www.denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk

email: reception@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk

Deputy Headteacher: Fred Mitchell

Company registered in England at Abenhall Road, Mitcheldean, Glos, GL17 0DU. Company number 7695544



5. We will have our usual support team to help out with any pastoral issues or technical issues, so please contact them as you normally would. Please remember that we are still using the safeguarding@denemagna.gloucs.sch.uk if you need help.
6. Anyone needing a device to work with needs to contact reception to request one. We did put this out before Christmas, but please allow us Monday and Tuesday to process your requests.
7. Teaching Assistants will be supporting students online (or in school).
8. Lunch will be available to all students who are in school.
9. We will still be running Y11 Parents Evening on Thursday as these appointments are online. We will be giving Trial Exam results out electronically on Thursday morning.
10. Our Y9 Options Event will continue, as this has been scheduled online and you can access that via the school website
11. Monday 11th January will see a return to school for Y11 and Y13 students. They will be back in the building and we hope to have them tested so that they can all learn with minimal disruption. The other students will remain online and at home for that week.

In short:

- Tuesday 5th – Friday 8th January sees ALL STUDENTS online and at home (except for key worker and vulnerable students).
- Monday 11th – Friday 15th January sees Y11 and Y13 students back IN SCHOOL alongside the key worker and vulnerable students.
- Monday 18th January sees ALL STUDENTS back in school.

Hopefully you will agree that doing this enables our students to maintain some of the focus that would be lost if we were not running normal lessons in that first week. We hope that by providing this structure and routine to all of our students, it can also help any of you who are working from home, or having to juggle multiple tasks.

The mass testing programme is being sorted in school and I must thank the army of volunteers who are giving up their time to help us achieve the goal of getting our staff and students tested so that we can ensure we do not have large groups affected by any infections that may occur. We will update you again on this and thanks go to those who have already returned their consent forms.

Finally, have a nice New Year. Stay safe and positive and we look forward to seeing everyone virtually and then physically as the weeks roll on.

Yours sincerely



Steve Brady
Headteacher