



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

COLLABORATING *for* EXCELLENCE

18 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We have finally made it to Christmas and I hope that all families are able to enjoy some rest, relaxation and celebration despite the many conditions and restrictions placed on us.

We have, like many schools nationally, experienced various closures and many students have, unfortunately had to self-isolate since September. Remote learning is necessary in such circumstances, but there is no substitute for face to face teaching. That is why we have tried to remain open as much as possible.

Below, you will find some important notices reading us reopening in January but also a chance for some of our students to show off their singing and performance skills in the Christmas Concert. Enjoy.

STAGGERED START IN JANUARY

There will be phased return to the Spring term in January, as directed by the Department for Education:

Year Group	Return date to school	Remote Learning Days
7	Monday, 11 January, Doors open 8:00	Tuesday, 05 – Friday, 08 January. Students remain at home and learn through MS Teams
8	Monday, 11 January, Doors open 8:00	Tuesday, 05 – Friday, 08 January. Students remain at home and learn through MS Teams
9	Monday, 11 January, Doors open 8:00	Tuesday, 05 – Friday, 08 January. Students remain at home and learn through MS Teams
10	Monday, 11 January, Doors open 8:15	Tuesday, 05 – Friday, 08 January. Students remain at home and learn through MS Teams
11	Tuesday, 05 January, Doors open 8:15	Not applicable
12	Tuesday, 05 January, Doors open 8:15	Not applicable
13	Tuesday, 05 January, Doors open 8:15	Not applicable

All lessons for Year 7 to 10 students on 05 to 08 January will be conducted through MS Teams. We advise that students follow their timetable to allow them to engage with the rest of the class and teacher in 'real time'.

There will be full time, on site provision from 05 January for all vulnerable children, and children of critical workers only. Please complete the form below if you feel you are eligible for this provision.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=vujYj3JiOk-ROacP9_VtsOPQJOZF60JKt9kJGZYuN1NUMEQySU1DNU5YRzVYTDICV1NBOUtIWFJVC4u

All eligible students will be contacted by the end of the day on Monday, 04 January if they have a place.

RAPID TESTING IN SCHOOLS



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

COLLABORATING *for* EXCELLENCE

The Department for Education have announced this week that there will be mass testing of staff and students in schools after the Christmas break. This will be initially for secondary schools with the plan for primary schools to deliver this as well from February.

There will be a period of training and preparation after Christmas. This means that testing will *not* be starting immediately upon students' return to school.

We wish to keep you fully informed of this as it develops and as such will be writing to you again in January when the government has released full guidance and we are clear as to the delivery of this project. We will also be asking for your permission to test your child/ren in January, we will not test students under the age of 16 without this.

YEAR 11 MOCK EXAMS

Year 11 Mock exams will proceed as scheduled and start on Wednesday, 06 January.

It is critical that students work as hard as they can towards these mocks. All subjects have been working towards these and have issued revision materials to be completed over the holidays.

A timetable of all exams can be found here:

<https://www.theacademy.me/page/?title=Exams+%26amp%3B+Revision&pid=134&action=saved>

All students have been issued a personalised timetable for their mock exams. If you would like an electronic version of your child's timetable, please contact the exams officer, Ms Walland: swalland@theacademy.me

YEAR 12, 13 EXAMS

External exams for Level 3 BTECs in Enterprise, Health and Social Care and Creative Media production will proceed as scheduled and start on Wednesday, 06 January.

These are not mock exams.

All students have been issued a personalised timetable for their mock exams. If you would like an electronic version of your child's timetable, please contact the exams officer, Ms Walland: swalland@theacademy.me

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A huge thank you to all the staff and students who 'Collaborated for Excellence' in making this production happen. It is a credit to the talent available at AVA. Thank you in particular to Ms Goldsack in primary for collating the footage and Mr Hallam in secondary for directing (and performing in) the production. There are a couple of staff cameos too which are lovely to see.

https://youtu.be/PKrgghVzc_s

If you want to watch the finale by itself, you can watch the following:

<https://youtu.be/ABemgZgpuMw>

CONTACT TRACING

If your child receives a positive test between Friday, 18 December and Tuesday, 24 December, please notify the school so that we can inform close contacts within the school. You may use the following methods:



The Aylesbury Vale Academy

COLLABORATING *for* EXCELLENCE

1. enquiries@theacademy.me
2. The 'Enquiry Form' on the school website: <https://www.theacademy.me/form/?pid=2&form=16>
3. Or text one of our emergency numbers: 07901271519 / 07554260501

EQUIPMENT

Please be reminded that under the current circumstances, students are unable to share equipment or use the water fountain.

In order to support us to keep everyone safe, we request that parents/carers send their children fully equipped after the Christmas break.

The should have:

- An appropriate bag
- A water bottle
- Their planner (issued)
- A pen (and a spare if possible)
- A purple pen (issued)
- A pencil
- An eraser
- Ruler
- A glue stick
- Highlighters
- A Scientific Calculator

You may also wish to provide:

- Coloured pencils
- A dictionary
- A pair of compasses
- A protractor
- A sharpener

This applies to the Secondary phase only.

I appreciate that this is not a 'normal' Christmas but I do hope that you have some time to relax and enjoy the Christmas that we do have.

Best wishes

MR G GIBSON
Academy Principal