



6<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I wrote to you last week following the Government's announcement, just before the New Year, regarding return-to-school dates this term – please disregard this information.

You will be aware that, due to rising infection rates of Covid-19, the Prime Minister has announced a new national lockdown in a bid to prevent the further spread of the virus.

As part of this, all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges in England, including our school, The Victory Academy, are to be closed from today until at least the end of half term in February, except for children of critical workers or vulnerable children. Nurseries are able to remain open.

Please note that students in Year 11, 12 and 13 due to be taking vocational exams this term, will have these arrangements confirmed directly to them.

**If you or your partner are a key or critical worker, or if your child is classed as vulnerable, then the school will remain open**, and we look forward to seeing them in school.

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school community as safe as possible, and I would like to remind you of the continued safety measures in place on school grounds:

- Everyone is expected to remain in their allocated bubbles
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day
- Visitors / Parents must wear face coverings on school grounds, including at the school gates

Please note, where possible, we are working with windows open in classrooms for added ventilation, and as the cold days have returned, students may need a few more layers of clothing such as tights or leggings underneath skirts/trousers, or plain black jumpers without a hood or brand logo. Students will be allowed to wear coats in classrooms as required.

**VULNERABLE STUDENTS AND CRITICAL WORKER PROVISION** - My team and I are committed to supporting our most vulnerable students and the children of critical workers who are dealing with the current crisis. If your work is critical to the Covid-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

- Health and social care
- Education of childcare
- Key public services



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[www.thevictoryacademy.org.uk](http://www.thevictoryacademy.org.uk)

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- Local or National Government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

Please note that this list is regularly updated, please refer to the link below for the most recent list.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?utm\\_source=4%20January%202021%20C19&utm\\_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm\\_campaign=DfE%20C19#critical-workers](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?utm_source=4%20January%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19#critical-workers)

If you wish to use this provision please complete the form at the bottom of this letter and email it to [office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk) by 12 noon on the day before the provision is required.

You must give the school prior notice that you need to use this provision, so that we can provide appropriate staffing. Students arriving without giving prior notice may be turned away if we do not have adequate staffing.

**For all other students, our school is closed until at least the end of the February half-term.**

**REMOTE LEARNING** – We will provide high-quality remote learning to ensure a consistent education is available. We understand that this places pressure on you as a family during this difficult time, and your support in helping your child engage as much as possible is so important.

Students should log onto Microsoft Teams during their allocated lesson times to receive work from their subject teachers and participate in live learning where possible. Students should log on for registration at 8.40am. Period 1 remote lessons will start at 9.00am. Please [click here](#) for guidance on distance learning and using Microsoft Teams. We will monitor students' engagement with their remote learning.

If your child is unable to access Microsoft Teams for any reason please contact [office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk](mailto:office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk).

**FREE SCHOOL MEALS** - If your child(ren) receives benefits related free school meals you will be able to attend the school every Tuesday, between 11.30am and 1.30pm to collect weekly food parcel. Please enter via the Galley community entrance. For unique circumstances i.e. if you or someone in your household has tested positive, is self-isolating or travel to the school is difficult please let us know and alternative arrangements will be made.



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My team and I will continue to stay in touch with you across the term, however, do let us know if you require additional support relating to these new arrangements. It is our priority to ensure that our students remain safe and continue learning throughout the lockdown.

I would once again like to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage these ongoing changes. Please continue to take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Ms M Gage  
**Principal**



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### Supervision for eligible students at school

Name of student:	Year group:	Form:
Reason for eligibility:		
Critical worker? Yes / No	If yes – what is your role?	Please tick to confirm that you have attached evidence of role – please see below for guidance.
Vulnerable student? Yes / No	The school will already have the evidence of this	

Days you would like your child to be supervised – **please tick**

Mon	Tues	Weds	Thurs	Friday

Students who are attending this provision will need to wear full school uniform. They will be provided with a computer so that they can join their lessons throughout the day.

If numbers wanting to access the critical worker/vulnerable student bubble are higher than staffing allows, vulnerable students will be prioritised.

I understand that:

- If anyone in my household exhibits symptoms of Coronavirus my child will not attend school for 10 days from the point that the symptoms started. The school will need to be notified.
- If my child exhibits any symptoms of the Coronavirus they will not attend school for 10 days from the date of symptom onset and until they are better and no longer have any symptoms. The school will be notified.
- If my child exhibits any symptoms of the Coronavirus whilst in childcare they will be isolated and I will be asked to pick them up immediately. The school will advise me of the self-isolation timeline.
- If a child in the childcare provision tests positive for Coronavirus, the school will carry out track and trace and notify parents if their child needs to be collected to self-isolate
- Should a child's behaviour be disruptive, unmanageable or unsafe then the offer of provision will be withdrawn. The Headteacher will make this decision and this decision will be final.

Please sign below to confirm that you have read and understood this letter and the expectations for students attending for supervision:

Parental name	Parent signature	Date

Evidence of role should include one of the following:

- Signed letter from employer stating that you work in the services listed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers>
- Pay slip, letter from employer, Photo ID from Emergency services, Education, Government etc.



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