



31st December 2020

School re-opening in January 2021

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I hope that you and your family had an enjoyable and safe Christmas.

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school as safe as possible, and that work has continued over the Christmas holiday period. I would like to thank our incredible staff for their commitment and professionalism, which has seen many working over the holidays.

INFORMATION RELATING TO SCHOOL RE-OPENING IN JANUARY 2021

The Government has now announced that secondary schools will re-open on a phased basis, this means at The Victory Academy:

- If your child is classed as vulnerable or if you or your partner is a critical worker, then your child will return to school from **Tuesday 5th January**. They will receive face-to-face teaching in school when they return.
 - Please note that The Victory Academy is running an inset day and the first day of term will be **Tuesday 5th January**
- Students in Year 11 and Year 13 will return to school based learning on **Monday 11th January**. Your child is expected to engage fully with their remote learning during **week commencing 4th January** so that they keep up with their education. Online learning for these year groups will be commencing from Tuesday 5th January.
- If your child is in Years 7, 8, 9, 10 or 12 then your child will return to school on **Monday 18th January**. Your child is expected to engage fully with their remote learning during **the weeks of both 4th and 11th January** so that they keep up with their education. Online learning for these year groups will be commencing from **Wednesday 6th January**.

As before, a great deal of planning and risk assessment has gone into ensuring that our school continues to be as safe as for pupils and staff, in line with latest Government and Public Health England guidance.

We will continue to take decisions in the best interests of our pupils, keeping you informed every step of the way, while following Government rules and advice.



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www.thevictoryacademy.org.uk

Director of Education (Chatham): Ms M Gage BA (Hons) NPQH
Chief Executive Officer: Mr S Gardner BA (Hons) MSc NPQH NLE

Magpie Hall Road, Chatham,
Kent, ME4 5JB

T: 03333 602140
E: office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk

The Victory Academy is a member of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whose registered address is Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6NR. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 7359755



IMPORTANT

Following the Christmas break, if your child or anyone in your household has developed symptoms **on or after Wednesday 23rd December do not return to school on Tuesday 5th January**. Please book a test and seek advice from the nhs.uk website at www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/

In this instance please contact the school office from Monday 4th January, and we will advise you on the self-isolation measures.

VULNERABLE STUDENTS AND CRITICAL WORKER PROVISION

I appreciate that for many parents, the closure of your school will cause further disruption. We 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, and you cannot keep your child safe at home then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

- Health and social care
- Education of childcare
- Key public services
- Local or National Government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

If you wish to use this provision please complete the below form in advance email it to office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk by 2pm on Monday 4th January.



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You must give the school 24 hours notice that you need to use this provision so that we can provide appropriate staffing. Students arriving without giving 24 hours' notice may be turned away if we do not have adequate staffing.

You may have heard that testing for those without coronavirus symptoms is being introduced within secondary schools. We will be working week commencing 4th January on how we will implement testing within our school and will I will write to you again to keep you updated with further information.

I hope that the information in this letter is helpful and clear. If you have any questions, please email office@thevictoryacademy.org.uk

In the meantime, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very happy New Year. Please do continue to take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Ms M Gage
Principal



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Am I a 'critical worker' to the COVID-19 response?

[Click here for current list](#)

YES

NO

Are both parents/carers
'critical workers' to the
COVID-19 response?

Keep your child at
home as per the
school's rota
system. They will be
able to access
learning from home.

YES

NO

Are you able to keep your child
safe at home?
i.e. That at least one parent/carer
is working from home

Please keep your child
at home as per the
school's rota system.
They will be able to
access learning from
home.

YES

NO

THE SCHOOL CAN PROVIDE CARE FOR YOUR CHILD

School will need to establish:

- Proof of critical worker status (pay slip, letter from employer, Photo ID etc.)
- Parent/Carer permission via completion of the enrolment form



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Supervision for eligible students at school

Name of student:	Year group:	Form:
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Reason for eligibility:

Key worker? Yes / No	If yes – what is your role?	Pleased 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 after cross-referencing with the rota for your daughter/son's year group:**

	Tues 5 th	Weds 6 th	Thurs 7 th	Friday 9 th
Mon 11 th	Tues 12 th	Weds 13 th	Thurs 14 th	Friday 15 th

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 key 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 14 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 key worker bubble 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



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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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