



4th January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: January National Lockdown

I am sorry to write so late, but in light of the PM's announcement this evening I wanted to write to clarify the answers to a few immediate questions that you might have (as far as we understand things at the time of writing!).

How long are school closures due to continue?

At least until February half term at the current time, but with a strong hint that this may continue into Term 4 given the time that it is expected for the virus rates to come under control.

What does this mean for the public vocational exams taking place over the next couple of weeks?

We have received confirmation that these will go ahead as planned. Students should arrive on site 20 minutes before the exam and report to the exam venue 10 minutes before the exam starts. They should follow normal Covid measures, including social distancing and wearing face coverings.

Will this affect the arrangements for 'remote learning' in any way?

Essentially, no. The arrangements for remote learning will remain as planned, with students following their timetable. Please note, however, that it may be more problematic for teachers to 'live teach' in circumstances where they have their own childcare needs that cannot be met by keyworker provision or other arrangements. In these cases, it may be that students in one class are 'invited' to join the lesson of another 'parallel' class, or it may be that the work for the lesson is set on Firefly. Please ensure that your children are keeping an eye on both platforms.

If I am a keyworker, or parent of a child receiving additional support, will they still be able to attend school as planned?

Yes, the provision for these students will not change. Requests for keyworker provision will be collated through a weekly survey – the survey for next week will be shared by the end of Wednesday at the latest.

Clearly, for any students on site, we will be ensuring that the measures we take to protect the students and staff are clearly reinforced.

Headteacher: Mr T W Inman, BSc

Gordano School, St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR

Tel: 01275 842606

Email: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk www.gordanoschool.org.uk

Lighthouse Schools Partnership. Registered address: St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR
A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (Company Number: 07662102)





Can I / my son / daughter come on site to collect work / resources that they need?

By arrangement with the relevant member of staff, yes. Staff will leave it at main reception for you / them to collect. Students should not go anywhere else on the school site. If they need to access their locker, they should report to main reception first.

What are the implications of the announcement about Year 11 and 13 exams?

Clearly, the PM's announcement about the summer exams is a very significant one, and our hearts go out to Year 11 and Year 13 students and their families regarding the impact that this will have. However, please note the PM's statement that summer exams will not go ahead 'as planned'. There is still a significant likelihood that the plans for awarding grades will include some external assessment, which may well look very much like an exam in all but name! At the moment, the advice to Year 11 and Year 13 is to continue with your studies as normal in the assumption that you could be sitting an exam-like assessment on some / much / all of the content at some stage over the spring and summer.

I will be holding a call with all Year 11 and 13 students at 8.45am tomorrow morning – the link for joining this call will be set for them on Firefly this evening. Please encourage your sons and daughters to join.

What about Year 11 mocks?

We will be reviewing our plans regarding Year 11 mocks in the next 24 hours and will communicate with Year 11 parents and students as soon as decisions are made. Year 11 students should still currently assume that their mocks will take place as planned next week in some form (i.e. remotely). We will share more information in due course.

What about Covid Testing?

We are unsure about this, but our current assumption is that we will still progress with testing for any staff and students who are attending school. For the majority, we assume that this will be postponed until the students return to school.

We will, of course, keep you up to date with developments as they happen. In the meantime take care, and please do not lose sight of the light that is at the end of the tunnel, even if the tunnel itself may seem a little darker now. We will aim to be a candle to help you through it.

Best wishes,

Tom Inman
Headteacher

Headteacher: Mr T W Inman, BSc

Gordano School, St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR

Tel: 01275 842606

Email: mailbox@gordanoschool.org.uk www.gordanoschool.org.uk

Lighthouse Schools Partnership. Registered address: St Mary's Road, Portishead, Bristol BS20 7QR
A charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England & Wales (Company Number: 07662102)

