

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### **IMPORTANT – Updated Arrangements following Prime Minister’s statement 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021**

Since I last wrote to you on the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021 regarding plans for the return of your child to school in the week beginning 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 a further announcement has been made by the Prime Minister.

The link to the statement can be found below:-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/prime-ministers-office-10-downing-street>

As a result of this the planned arrangements for the school have had to be adjusted.

#### **Year 11 specific information**

As per the Prime Minister’s statement from last night:

*“We recognise that this will mean it is not possible or fair for all exams to go ahead this summer as normal. The Education Secretary will work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements”* and as such I will issue further guidance as and when I receive it.

At this stage we do not know what information that we will be required to submit as a school regarding your child, but at this stage whilst we are waiting for further clarification and guidance I wanted to write to you at the earliest opportunity to ensure that your child continues “to do their best”.

I hope that you can appreciate that the intention of this letter is to give you as much information as I possibly can at this stage. As you will be aware, this is an emerging and developing picture and as such, as soon as I can update you with any further information I will not hesitate to do so.

The Department for Education have announced that vocational exams that are scheduled in January 2021 will go ahead as planned; please note that we will contact parents/carers directly if your child is involved in these exams.

In the meantime, it is imperative that your child:

- follows their timetable on Teams
- fully engages with all lessons
- sends completed work to their teacher as per the instructions on Teams
- ensures they ask their teachers questions if they do not understand an aspect of their learning
- completes all classwork, assessments and homework to the best of their ability
- continues to revise and prepare fully for the “proposed” Mock Examinations in the period 22<sup>nd</sup> February to 5<sup>th</sup> March 2021 (please note these dates are subject to change)



## Planned arrangements for Hurworth School as of 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

- All students in Years 7 to 11 will be taught remotely and will follow their normal school timetable via Microsoft Teams from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021. The Government's intention is that students will return to school on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021 following the half term break, however this will be reviewed closer to the time.

**The following exceptions will apply as it has been confirmed that the January exam series will be going ahead as planned: -**

- Year 10 students who are entered for the Creative iMedia examination on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January;** we recommend that these students attend school on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January from 9.00 to 11.25 for revision sessions with Mr Elliott and Mr Botham; they should enter school via the Main Entrance. This revision session will replace their timetabled lessons over the course of the week. Please note that parents/carers will be responsible for arranging transport for their child – if you require assistance with this then please contact the school. Students **MUST** attend school at **1.00pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January** to sit their examination and should enter school via the Main Entrance.
- Year 11 students who are entered for the Health and Social Care examination on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January;** we recommend that these students attend school on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January from 9.00 to 11.25 for revision sessions with Mrs Gawthorpe; they should enter school via the door to Room 38. This revision session will replace their timetabled lessons over the course of the week. Please note that parents/carers will be responsible for arranging transport for their child – if you require assistance with this then please contact the school. Students **MUST** attend school at **1.00pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January** to sit their examination and should enter school via door to Room 38.

**In addition to the exceptions above, please note the following:**

- If your child has difficulty engaging with remote education at home for example, due to a lack of devices please contact school; if they do not have a quiet space which is conducive to learning then please also contact school.
- Vulnerable children and children of Critical Workers in Years 7 to 11 can attend school as normal from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

If it is your intention for your child to attend school as normal in accordance with either of these two bullet points then you **MUST** contact the school **by 6.00 pm on the day prior to the day you wish your child to attend** via an email to [npr@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk](mailto:npr@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk). In your email please state the name of your child, their year group and the reason why they will be attending school. **All students who are attending school from Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January should arrive in full uniform at their usual time and wait in the "school yard" where they will be met by staff who will direct them to the appropriate classroom.**



## Vulnerable children and Young People include those who:

- are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
- have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
- have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children's social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
  - children and young people on the edge of receiving support from children's social care services or in the process of being referred to children's services
  - adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
  - those at risk of becoming NEET ('not in employment, education or training')
  - those living in temporary accommodation
  - those who are young carers
  - those who may have difficulty engaging with remote education at home (for example, due to a lack of devices or quiet space to study)
  - care leavers
  - other children and young people at the provider and local authority's discretion including students who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

## School Transport

At this stage, it is our plan for school transport not to be available from 6<sup>th</sup> January 2021 to 12<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

If your child accesses statutory school transport then please contact Mrs Preston [lpn@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk](mailto:lpn@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk) or the School Transport Team at the Local Authority ([schooltraveltransport@darlington.gov.uk](mailto:schooltraveltransport@darlington.gov.uk) or 01325 406333) for further information.

## Remote Learning

Students should follow their normal timetable (5 x 1 hour periods) by logging on at the start of each lesson; work will be set via Teams assignments and will be provided via a combination of pre-recorded and live lessons; in the case of pre-recorded lessons the students class teacher will be available to support them online over the course of the lesson; further guidance on accessing Remote Learning can be found on the school website <https://hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk/remote-learning/>. A timetable of when live lessons are scheduled will be sent to all parents/carers on the Friday of the preceding week e.g. information will be sent out on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2021 for the week commencing Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The expectation is that students will complete their Remote Learning during this time on Teams. Where this is not the case they will be given clear instructions from their teachers as to how to hand in their completed work. If you require assistance with technology/devices please contact Mrs Reilly on [sry@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk](mailto:sry@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk).



## Testing

The Government guidance states that the testing programme is managed in line with the system of controls. The guidance states that the programme will enable as many staff and students as possible to be tested in the week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and this will be done with lateral flow device tests. Following the recent announcement, the intention is that this programme will still go ahead for those students who are accessing school.

The Government are encouraging staff and students to participate in this programme, however participation is optional. It is important to note that testing may not be feasible for some children, particularly some vulnerable children, for reasons of feasibility or consent. When we have more detailed school operational information ready, including requesting your consent, we will of course keep you informed of next steps. The latest information regarding testing can be found at:

<https://swiftacademies.org.uk/covid-19/#testing>

**If you think you may be able to volunteer to assist in this process or have family members who may be able to help then please contact Mrs Dodds at school via [lds@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk](mailto:lds@hurworth.swiftacademies.org.uk) from Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.**

## School Meals

Please note that parents/carers of students in Years 7 to 10 who are in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM) will receive vouchers via the Wonde system for the w/b the 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

We will update you regarding the provision of FSM's for students in Year 11 for the w/b 4<sup>th</sup> January and for students in Years 7 to 10 for the w/b 11<sup>th</sup> January as soon as we have received further information.

Please note that the Canteen will be open in the weeks beginning the 4<sup>th</sup> and the 11<sup>th</sup> January; however, the menu maybe limited due to reduced numbers in attendance.

## Additional support

In response to the governments new guidelines to put a national lockdown in place we wanted to help and support parents and pupils in this difficult time. Hurworth School are frequently updating useful Mental Health, Online Safety and Safeguarding blogs on our school website to help to give support and keep parents updated with information for Mental Health, Online Safety and Safeguarding concerns. This can be found on the Hurworth School home page within the blogs tab. To help to continue and build on these skills it would be useful for you to have discussions and continue to work on these skills at home. Please see the links below to useful websites that can help you with support and information on young people's Mental health:

[www.annafreud.org](http://www.annafreud.org)

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

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

[www.kooth.com](http://www.kooth.com)



The popularity of the use of social media platforms and the number of pupils using devices have increased significantly during lockdown. There are some useful tools on our website with direct links to the National Online Safety community and CEOPS who offer an array of free resources parents can use at home. You can also use this link to make your own personal parent account with the **National Online Safety community**, which gives you access to many parent resources:

<https://lms.nationalonlinesafety.com/school/hurworthacademy>

### Swift and School Specific Information

Please note that the following link contains a wealth of COVID related information and all school letters:

[COVID-19 | Swift Academies](#)

We understand that these are uncertain, difficult and stressful times, however we will do our best to support you and your child through this process and we will update you as soon as we receive any further guidance and information.

Yours sincerely



Miss N. Peaker  
Head of School