



THE THOMAS LORD AUDLEY SCHOOL

Part of The Sigma Trust

Headteacher: Simon Essex BSc MA NPQH

1 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It gives me great pleasure to write to you for the first time in my role as Headteacher of the Thomas Lord Audley School. I am incredibly excited about this role and look forward to working with you and our incredible young people. I am writing to provide you with more information about the first few weeks of school following the Government's announcements about schools remaining closed to reduce the spread of the Coronavirus after the Christmas Holiday.

Year 11 students

Students in Year 11 are currently expected to return to school on Monday 11th January.

Students in Year 7 to Year 10

Students in Year 7 to Year 10 are currently expected to return to school on Monday 18th January.

Keyworkers' Children and Vulnerable Children

If you requested that your child attends school during the week beginning 4th January, you should have now received confirmation. There will also be provision made available for these children in the following weeks prior to the school fully re-opening. If you have any questions or queries about this provision, please email enquiries@tla.school.

Remote Learning

From Tuesday 5th January, I have asked teachers to set remote learning work for students in all year groups. This is despite the fact that the Government appear to have given the message that remote learning will be only available for Year 11 students next week. I believe that students should be provided with work to support their learning at home at this time. I have asked staff to ensure that the work is available on Google Classrooms before the normal timetabled lessons. The work should primarily be work that will help the students to recap work they were taught last term. If you experience any difficulties accessing work online either because of issues with access to suitable devices or problems with passwords, please contact Mr Pulford. (Email: michael.pulford@tla.school)

Contact with students

During the remote learning time, schools are required to make contact with students. I will be asking tutors to email your child on their school email account on Tuesday morning. Please can you ensure your child responds to the email to the tutor? This is so that we can identify where we need to provide

additional support. For students in Year 7 to Year 10, tutors will also make contact again at the start of the week beginning 11th January.

Mass Testing

We are currently developing our plans in school to test students for Coronavirus. I expect you will have read in the news that all secondary schools are supporting with the fight against Coronavirus by offering testing to staff and students. The purpose of this voluntary testing is to identify people who are asymptomatic (not showing any signs of coronavirus, but do have the virus). We will be in touch with you again early next week to clarify our plans, once we know what supplies the Government has arranged for us to enable us to carry out the testing. Students who have symptoms should remain at home and arrange for a test via the NHS website or by phoning 119.

I appreciate you and your child may feel unsettled by the Government's recent announcement that schools will remain closed to most students. I encourage you and your family to utilise the material that can be found on our school website to help promote good emotional well-being. I hope that this situation improves rapidly and schools can fully open again quickly. I hope I can continue to count on your support for your child and the school.

Yours sincerely

Mr S Essex
Headteacher