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Dear Parent/Carer

RE: SPRING TERM START DATES

Late yesterday afternoon the Government announced that secondary school students will have a staggered return to School. Year 11 and Year 13 will return on Tuesday 5 January with all other Year Groups learning remotely via Microsoft Teams until Friday 8 January. Students will follow their timetable, including Form Time, with the exception of PE, Dance and KS3 Drama.

The School will again remain open for a small number of vulnerable students and children where both parents are keyworkers. If your child falls into one of these groups, you **must** email info@hestoncs.org by Tuesday 22 December, so that the School can make the necessary arrangements.

Return Date	Year Group
Tuesday 05 January	Years 11, 13 and Year 12 Level 3 BTEC students
Monday 11 January	All students

The School will be working with the Hounslow Clinical Commissioning Group to provide the new Rapid COVID-19 test to staff, and as many students as possible. This will help to identify the one in three individuals, who have the virus but do not have symptoms, so could be unknowingly spreading the disease. Further details can be found at this link:

<https://publichealthmatters.blog.gov.uk/2020/12/08/lateral-flow-testing-new-rapid-tests-to-detect-covid-19/>

In the event of a positive result, the student will be sent home to self-isolate and be instructed to conduct the normal PCR COVID-19 Test.

We are waiting for the Government to provide further details and consent forms and will share these early in the new year. We encourage all families to support the initiative by signing and returning these as soon as possible. Post 16 students will be able to provide their own consent when we conduct the Rapid Tests on their return on 05 January 2021.

It remains important that you inform the School if your child tests positive for COVID-19 until Wednesday 23 December, on the following number 07544 836364. Please inform us without delay, so that we can track and trace others in our community who may be affected.

I would like to apologise for this late change and the inconvenience it may cause for families in the new year. However, the School is reacting to instructions as and when they arrive from the Department for Education.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank everyone in our community for the support they have shown the School during these challenging times.

Yours faithfully

M O'Hagan
Deputy Headteacher

Specialist Visual Arts Academy