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01 January 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

### REVISED DATES FOR STUDENTS RETURNING IN JANUARY 2021

The Government has announced that all students sitting examinations in 2021 will return to school from **11 January 2021**, for face-to-face lessons. All other students will return in the week commencing **18 January 2021**. Further details of exact start dates and times for individual year groups will be communicated by Learning Coordinators.

From Tuesday 05 January all year groups will be taught remotely via Microsoft Teams. Students will follow their timetable, including Form Time, with the exception of PE, Dance and KS3 Drama. Where a teacher is unavailable due to illness, work will be made available on SMHW.

Students who are sitting Public BTEC Examinations from the week commencing 04 January, should assemble in the Quadrangle on the dates and times published.

Group	Testing Date	Return Date
Staff	Monday 04 January by allocated timeslot	08:20 Monday 04 January
Yr. 13	Thursday 07 January by allocated timeslot	Attend all public exams 11:10 Monday 11 January
Yr. 12 BTEC	Tuesday 05 January by allocated timeslot	Attend all public exams 11:10 Monday 11 January
Yr. 12 [Non-BTEC]	Wednesday 13 January by allocated timeslot	08:50 Monday 18 January
Yr. 11	Friday 08 January by allocated timeslot	11:10 Monday 11 January
Yr. 10	Thursday 14 January by allocated timeslot	08:40 Monday 18 January
Yr. 9	Friday 15 January by allocated timeslot	08:40 Monday 18 January
Yr. 8	Monday 18 January by allocated timeslot	08:30 Tuesday 19 January
Yr. 7	Tuesday 19 January by allocated timeslot	08:30 Tuesday 19 January

Once again, the School will remain open for the small number of vulnerable students and children where both parents/carers are keyworkers. If you have not already informed the School, and your child falls into one of these categories, you must email [info@hestoncs.org](mailto:info@hestoncs.org) by Wednesday 06 January 2021. The School will then make the necessary arrangements for your child to attend school from Monday 11 January 2021.

The School is currently preparing to test every child and member of staff with the new Lateral Flow Test before they return to their face-to-face lessons. Details of these arrangements will be sent out to each year group next week, once these have been finalised. This initiative will allow everyone at School to feel safer and better protected. Further information and a Digital Consent Form, which must be completed by all parents/carers of Year 7-11 students, will be available on our website from Tuesday 05 January.

It is vital for all parents/carers to provide the School with the necessary consent for their child to self-administer the Lateral Flow Test. I can assure all parents/carers that trained staff will always be available to support students whilst they carry out the tests.

**Specialist Visual Arts Academy**

Post 16 students will be able to complete a paper copy of the Consent Form themselves, after having discussed it with their parents/carers. I urge all families to support the School and local community by stressing the importance and benefits of the Lateral Flow Tests.

I would like to apologise for this late change and the inconvenience it will cause. However, the School is reacting to directions as and when they arrive from the Department for Education. I would advise that further changes will probably need to be communicated over the coming weeks.

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

Yours faithfully



**M O'Hagan**  
**Deputy Headteacher**