



“Believing is Achieving”

Thursday 7th January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I am sorry to be writing to you again so soon after recent letters, but as you will know, the national situation has altered significantly over the past few days. The changes announced by the Prime Minister have a significant impact on schools and we have had to shift from preparing school lessons and mass-testing, to providing on-line learning in a matter of hours.

Shepwell is open for children of critical workers and those considered vulnerable. We have already contacted those parents/carers who have children that fall into these categories to determine how many parents wish for their children to be in school. For the majority of students, learning will now take place at home via remote access. I thought it would be useful to list answers to a few questions which have been raised by Parents/Carers:

- 1) Children should attend school if they are considered vulnerable or if their Parents/Carers are considered critical workers. Priority will be given to children where both Parents/Carers are considered a critical worker.
- 2) If Special Educational Needs (those with an Education Health Care Plan) or vulnerable students are attending school, I would ask that they attend consistently according to agreed days and not sporadically when the child feels like. This will ensure continuity of provision. Clearly if students are unwell, normal absence procedures should be followed.
- 3) Students who are permitted to attend school, should continue to wear uniform until further notice.
- 4) We will be reverting back to group bubbles.
- 5) Free School Meal packed lunches will be provided until the Government voucher scheme is rolled out nationally. Packed lunches can be collected from the school. Children in school who are entitled to free school meals will have these provided. Children of critical workers who are not entitled to a free school meal can book meals as normal (limited menu).
- 6) COVID-19 testing will be available for staff and students in school, so please complete the consent forms from my most recent letter and return by tomorrow (Friday 8th January 2021). Testing is likely to recommence once during the week commencing 11th January 2021.
- 7) If your child school is to undertake public exams in Years 11 the government has announced that results will be based on teacher assessment. Year 11 must continue working towards exams as there may be some assessments to sit and we will continue to collect evidence of work so that if required, we can submit teacher assessments of likely outcomes.



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- 8) Visitors to Shepwell, will be limited but CAMHS, speech and language consultants, counsellors, educational psychologists, school nurse service, etc. will continue, although some may have to operate remotely.
- 9) School staff will contact every parent/carer of children not attending school several times a week on the welfare of students.
- 10) We have been told that there will be more electronic devices provided to Shepwell in the coming weeks. These will be issued to students who have limited access to on-line learning. Please do contact us if this is a problem in your household.

Remote learning:

I have asked all teachers to deliver remote learning in line with their normal school day until February half-term. This means that teachers will be delivering some live learning/pre-recorded learning, or available to give instructions/support to students.

We will be monitoring the quality of online provision over the coming weeks and hope that all students engage in the planned learning. Those that do not, will be contacted and will be expected to catch up on any missed learning. Ensuring that students keep up with learning is vital, so that when we do return students can quickly catch up. Please do contact us if you are worried about the work your child is undertaking.

Thank you for your understanding at a time when the government agenda seems to be changing daily.

Kind regards

Stephen Pritchard-Jones

Mr. Stephen Pritchard-Jones
Headteacher
Shepwell Short Stay School, Home & Hospital Tuition Service, Alternative Specialist Provision

Chair of the South Walsall Cluster of Schools
Chair of the Walsall Primary, Nursery, & Special Schools Headteachers' Forum
Treasurer of Walsall Branch NAHT walsall.treasurer@nahtofficials.org.uk