

5 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

On Monday evening, as part of the national lockdown, the Prime Minister sadly announced that schools will remain closed until February half-term. This will mean that all students across our schools will access their learning remotely and should not attend school unless they are eligible to access a vulnerable child or critical worker place. It is not a situation any of us wanted to face again but one which is necessary to reduce the transmission of the virus.

All our schools are now in a much better position for the delivery of remote learning than they were in the previous lockdown. Staff have worked incredibly hard over the last ten months to develop our online learning platforms, to complete training for staff and students and to adapt to new ways of working and teaching. Arrangements on how to access your child's remote learning will already have been shared with you. Please do all you can to ensure your child engages with the remote learning and contact the school if you need any further support.

The Prime Minister also announced that 'it is not fair for all exams to go ahead this summer'. I know this will be a very worrying time for all students and for parents and carers of children who are due to sit exams this summer. We are waiting for more information and guidance from the Government on this and schools will be in touch as soon as we have more details. In the meantime, all our brilliant staff will continue to work hard to deliver high quality remote learning and to provide ongoing support and care for our students. Students in all exam classes should attend their remote lessons and continue to complete all work and assessments to the best of their ability.

You may also have heard about the Government's plan for Lateral Flow Testing in schools. Testing is hugely important in stopping the spread of asymptomatic COVID-19, both in schools and in the wider community. More information on this will follow shortly once we have had time to further develop our plans.

As the COVID-19 situation continues to change, our plans may too. Regular and effective communication will be even more important than ever. Our schools are working hard to ensure you are kept informed. Please could you regularly check the relevant school websites, social media channels and other communications to home in order to keep up to date with the latest developments. Please also ensure that the school has the most up to date contact information for you.

I know that some families may face a range of additional difficulties during this difficult time. Please remember that, although our doors may be physically closed for now, we are still here to help and support you. Please get in touch with your child's school if we can be of assistance in any way. Thank you once again for all you will do to support remote learning and for your continued understanding.

Happy New Year and all the very best for 2021.

Your sincerely



Bev Matthews
CEO Minerva Learning Trust