



5th January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

I wrote to you last week following the Government's announcement, just before the New Year, regarding return-to-school dates this term – please now disregard this information.

You may be aware that, due to rising infection rates of Covid-19, the Prime Minister has announced a new national lockdown in a bid to prevent the further spread of the virus. As part of this, all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges in England, including our school, Holcombe Grammar School, are to be closed from today until at least the end of half term in February, except for children of key workers or vulnerable children. Nurseries are able to remain open.

Those students in Year 11, 12 & 13, who are still due to sit examinations, will be contacted directed by the school with necessary details.

From today:

If you or your partner is a key or critical worker, or if your child is classed as vulnerable, then the school will remain open, and we look forward to seeing them in school.

As you know, we have worked incredibly hard since the start of the pandemic in March to keep our school community as safe as possible, and I would like to remind you of the continued safety measures in place on school grounds:

- Everyone is expected to remain in their allocated bubbles
- Students are encouraged to wash their hands regularly throughout the day
- Visitors / Parents must wear face coverings on school grounds, including at the school gates

Please note, where possible, we are working with windows open in classrooms for added ventilation, and as the cold days have returned, pupils may need a few more layers of clothing such as jumpers or plain fleeces without a hood or large brand logo.

VULNERABLE STUDENTS AND CRITICAL WORKER PROVISION - My team and I are committed to supporting our most vulnerable students and the children of critical workers who are dealing with the current crisis. If your work is critical to the Covid-19 response, or you work in one of the critical sectors listed below then your children will be prioritised for education provision:

- Health and social care
- Education of childcare
- Key public services
- Local or National Government
- Food and other necessary goods
- Public safety and national security
- Transport
- Utilities, communication and financial services

ASPIRE & ACHIEVE TOGETHER

www.holcombegrammar.org.uk

Principal: Mr L Preston BA (Hons) MSc NPQH
Director of Education for Chatham: Ms M Gage BA (Hons) NPQH
Chief Executive Officer: Mr S Gardner BA (Hons) MSc NPQH NLE

Holcombe, Maidstone Road,
Chatham, Kent, ME4 6JB

T: 0333 360 2130
E: office@holcombegrammar.org.uk

Holcombe Grammar School is a member of The Thinking Schools Academy Trust, whose registered address is Park Crescent, Chatham, Kent, ME4 6NR. A company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Company Number: 7359755



Please note that this list is regularly updated, please refer to the link below for the most recent list. https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision?utm_source=4%20January%202021%20C19&utm_medium=Daily%20Email%20C19&utm_campaign=DfE%20C19#critical-workers

If you wish to use this provision please complete the form at the bottom of this letter and email it to office@holcombegrammar.org.uk This form should be returned by 12.00 noon on the day prior to requiring the provision, so that we can provide appropriate staffing. Students arriving without giving prior notice may be turned away if we do not have adequate staffing.

For all other students, our school is closed until at least the end of the February half-term.

REMOTE LEARNING – We will continue to provide high-quality remote learning to ensure a consistent education is available. We understand that this places pressure on you as a family during this difficult time, and your support in helping your child engage as much as possible is so important.

Students should log onto Microsoft Teams during their allocated lesson times to receive work from their subject teachers and participate in live learning where possible. Students are required to log in for registration at 8.45 am daily and Period 1 remote lessons will start at 9.00 am. Please [click here](#) for guidance on distance learning and using Microsoft Teams. We will monitor students' engagement with their remote learning. If your child is unable to access Microsoft Teams for any reason, please contact the school office at office@holcombegrammar.org.uk

FREE SCHOOL MEALS - If your child(ren) receives benefits related free school meals you will be able to attend the school each week and be provided a weekly food parcel. The parcels will be delivered to schools and parents will need to collect these each Thursday (commencing 7.1.21) between 11.00 am and 1.00 pm. For unique circumstances i.e. if you or someone in your household has tested positive, is self-isolating or travel to the school is difficult please let us know and alternative arrangements will be made.

My team and I will continue to stay in touch with you across the term, however, do let us know if you would like to discuss this matter, or if you require additional support relating to these new arrangements.

I would once again like thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage these ongoing changes. Please continue to take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

Mr L. Preston
Principal



Supervision for eligible students at school

Name of student:	Year group:	Form:
Reason for eligibility:		
Critical worker? Yes / No	If yes – what is your role?	Please tick to confirm that you have attached evidence of role – please see below for guidance.
Vulnerable student? Yes / No	The school will already have the evidence of this	

Days you would like your child to be supervised – **please tick:**

			Thurs 7th	Friday 9th
Mon 11th	Tues 12th	Weds 13th	Thurs 14th	Friday 15th

Students who are attending this provision will need to wear full school uniform. They will be provided with a computer so that they can join their lessons throughout the day. If numbers wanting to access the key worker/vulnerable student bubble are higher than staffing allows, vulnerable students will be prioritised.

I understand that:

- **If anyone in my household exhibits symptoms of Coronavirus my child will not attend school for 10 days from the point that the symptoms started. The school will need to be notified.**
- **If my child exhibits any symptoms of the Coronavirus they will not attend school for 10 days from the date of symptom onset and until they are better and no longer have any symptoms. The school will be notified.**
- **If my child exhibits any symptoms of the Coronavirus whilst in childcare they will be isolated and I will be asked to pick them up immediately. The school will advise me of the self-isolation timeline.**
- **If a child in the key worker bubble tests positive for Coronavirus, the school will carry out track and trace and notify parents if their child needs to be collected to self-isolate/or move to daily lateral flow testing if consent is provided for 7 days as per latest DFE guidance**

Please sign below to confirm that you have read and understood this letter and the expectations for students attending for supervision:

Parental name	Parent signature	Date

Evidence of role should include one of the following:

- Signed letter from employer stating that you work in the services listed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision#critical-workers>
- Pay slip, letter from employer, Photo ID from Emergency services, Education, Government etc.