

Dear Parents,

Following my email from last week, I have included below further updates about arrangements for this delayed start to the school term.

I am aware that further national announcements are due to be made later this evening. As a result, some of the information that I have shared below may need to be updated further tomorrow and I will plan to write you again before the end of the day tomorrow.

1. Covid Testing

Colleagues have been working hard in school today to setup process for coronavirus testing to take place onsite.

These tests are known as lateral flow tests and will give a result in 30 minutes time. Our plan is to ensure that all pupils are tested at the start of the school term.

Testing will help make sure that pupils who have the virus but who are not showing symptoms do not cause other pupils to become infected.

Testing will also lead to the school need to send fewer classes home in the future in the event a pupil testing positive, as we will be able to regularly test their close contacts to make sure that they have not caught the virus.

We can only include your child in the testing programme with your consent.

Please read carefully the [privacy notice](#) and the [frequently asked questions](#) about data protection, before [clicking here](#) to complete the consent form your child.

Please note, if you have more than one child attending Ark St Alban's Academy, you need to complete for form once for each child. Please also, when entering the name of your child form, please format it carefully to match the first name and surname which is printed on their planner.

It is most likely that we will want to roll-out the testing programme for pupils in Year 11 and Year 13 as a priority this week. Please complete the consent form as soon as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns about the testing programme, then please do get in touch and either I or another member of the leadership team will be happy to discuss it further with you.

2. Remote Learning

I will be writing to you again tomorrow to share further details about our plans for remote learning.

Our teachers today have worked hard to develop an online curriculum that will ensure pupils' learning is disrupted as little as possible. In addition to the laptops the school provided to pupils in Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 last term, arrangements have today been made to issue devices to pupils who need them in Years 7, 8 and 9.

If your child does not have a laptop or tablet at home to use to complete remote learning, please email info@arkstalbans.org to request support.

A reminder that for pupils in Year 11 and Year 13, remote learning begins at 8.30am on Wednesday this week, and for pupils in all other year groups, it will begin next Monday.

3. Onsite Provision

Please remember that if you are a key worker or your child is vulnerable, then you can request a place in our onsite provision from Wednesday morning onwards by emailing info@arkstalbans.org.

4. FSM Vouchers

Many families have been in touch today enquiring about the process for receiving free-school meals vouchers.

Our team have today spent time setting up the system and I plan to share more information with you by email tomorrow afternoon.

5. Exams

Some pupils in Year 10, 11, 12 and 13 have exams taking place both this week and next. Please do look out for specific emails relating to these examinations and the preparation for them so that you know if and when your child is expected in school.

6. Keeping In Touch

If you would like to discuss our plans for the start of term, please do email jayne.hooper@arkstalbans.org who will be happy to arrange a time for you and I to speak on the phone

Kind regards,



Guy Rimmer
Principal