



**Trinity School**

A Church of England  
Academy

Registered Address: Strand Road  
Carlisle  
Cumbria CA1 1JB

Telephone Number 01228 516051  
Email Address: [info@trinity.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:info@trinity.cumbria.sch.uk)  
[www.trinity.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.trinity.cumbria.sch.uk)

Ms Jo Hawkin  
Headteacher

31 December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Apologies in advance for a lengthy letter during the holidays. I hope that you have had a peaceful Christmas.

### **Government announcement 30<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

As you know the government made an announcement yesterday about changes to the start of term. They have delayed the return to school for students in order to:

*“allow schools more time to focus on preparations for additional coronavirus testing and provide a longer period following Christmas to reduce mixing ahead of a return to full-time on-site education for all.”*

Although Trinity School is involved in the pilot testing programme, infection rates have increased over the break leading to Cumbria being placed in Tier 4 restrictions. This means that we must follow the DFE guidance published yesterday regarding the phased return to school and school will **not** now reopen on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January as initially planned. I apologise for the lack of notice and hope that you understand that we are having to respond to last minute and complex government guidance. More information about the phased start of term is later in this letter.

### **Pilot testing programme**

Trinity School will still take part in the pilot testing programme next week. Schools are expected to have an ongoing testing programme in place after the mass testing of staff and students. Taking part in the pilot will help us to do this more efficiently, with support from the Local Authority and Public Health. It is now a requirement from government that all secondary schools have testing fully in place by the time all students return to school. It is important to say that the government guidance states that whilst students will be encouraged to have a test, they should not be required to have had one as a condition of being allowed to return to school. We do think, however, that there is a benefit to the testing for families, the school and the wider community in that it will help to identify asymptomatic cases of Covid-19 and prevent spread of the disease. The Local Authority and Public Health will be writing to the parents of students taking part in the pilot over the next few days and this letter will be posted on the website when it is available.

Testing will now take place **over four days** to help space appointments over a longer period. If you have agreed for your child to take part, we will be in touch with any changes to appointment times as soon as possible. Please check the website under the Lateral Flow Testing section for details. **New letters will be posted there by Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> January with new times for some form groups.** Changes to the days are below:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Students to be tested</b>
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 13 only
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 7 and Year 11
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 8, 10 and Home Group
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> January	Year 9 and 12

**Please note that if your child is under 12 years old, parents/carers must attend to complete the test with their child.** All other students will self-administer the test with guidance from fully trained adults. Parents/carers will still need to be able to collect their children if the test is positive.



**Trinity School**

A Church of England  
Academy

Registered Address: Strand Road  
Carlisle  
Cumbria CA1 1JB

Telephone Number 01228 516051  
Email Address: [info@trinity.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:info@trinity.cumbria.sch.uk)  
[www.trinity.cumbria.sch.uk](http://www.trinity.cumbria.sch.uk)

Ms Jo Hawkin  
Headteacher

### **Phased start to term**

The government have set out their aims, below, that students return to school as follows:

- *in the week commencing 4 January, secondary schools should only provide on-site education to vulnerable children and children of critical workers, and prioritise remote education to those in exam years*
- *in the week commencing 11 January, secondary schools should provide on-site education to vulnerable children, children of critical workers and those in exam years, and provide remote education to all other pupils*
- *from 18 January, all pupils should return to on-site education*

For Trinity School, Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January is an INSET day so we will be organising our on-site provision for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers to start on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January. More information will follow but if you are unsure about whether or not your child falls into one of these categories, please contact us on [trinityhub@trinity.cumbria.sch.uk](mailto:trinityhub@trinity.cumbria.sch.uk) for confirmation. Mr Brentnall will be in touch about students in the Home Groups when staff return to school next week.

During the first week of term, all other students should stay at home except to have their lateral flow test at their dedicated appointment time. The government have stated that throughout, all children and young people should continue to comply with the rules set out for the tier they are in, and parents are asked to help ensure their children are following those rules. In particular the government have stressed the rules for students related to mixing with other households when they are not at school and when they are travelling to and from educational settings.

We will be providing remote education for students according to government guidelines and more details on what this means for each year group will be sent early next week. Please bear in mind that staff will now be involved in supervising testing, planning for ongoing testing, providing on-site provision for vulnerable students and children of critical workers as well as providing remote learning for exam year groups so it may take a few days for online lessons to begin for children in Key Stage 3. All work will be set via ClassCharts, including invites to any live lessons. If students have difficulty accessing this, they should email their year team immediately.

Vocational subjects with external exams will go ahead as planned for those students in Years 10, 12 and 13 but Year 11 catch-up mocks will not go ahead, and Year 13 mocks will be re-scheduled.

Thank you for your patience. With best wishes for a better 2021.

Yours sincerely

Jo Hawkin  
**Headteacher**