

# CITY OF DERBY ACADEMY

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Headteacher: Mr P Smith



Tuesday 29th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

## January 2021 School Opening Plans at CODA

I hope that you are having a great Christmas break and staying safe in these most challenging times.

As you are aware coronavirus infection rates have been rising and a large number of the country are either in Tier 3 or Tier 4 restrictions. This has resulted in a lot of uncertainty about school opening plans from Tuesday 5th January 2021.

In this letter, I have outlined what the draft plans are for the City of Derby Academy from Tuesday 5th January 2021. The political climate is changing on a daily basis, so if there are any changes, I will let you as soon as possible.

Currently, schools have been asked to establish Lateral Flow Device testing in schools as soon as possible. This is designed to allow more staff and students access to face-to-face schooling when they have been identified as a close or proximity contact. As you will appreciate, this will take a lot of planning and preparation.

Therefore, from Tuesday 5th January 2021 until Friday 8th January 2021 :-

- Students in Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be learning remotely from home. There are lots of guidance documents on the school website if your child needs support accessing remote learning.
- Students in Year 11 will attend school as normal. However, the social distancing guidelines will still be in place, including the wearing of face coverings.
- There will be a provision available for critical worker children and vulnerable children. We will be alerting the relevant families to this on Monday 4th January 2021 (INSET Day).

From Monday 11th January 2021, the plans are for **ALL** students to attend school as normal.

If you believe your child qualifies as a critical worker child and you would like to access the school provision from Tuesday 5th to Friday 8th January 2021, please contact the school on Monday 4th January 2021.

## Mass testing programme

We are positive about the potential for the mass testing of students and staff in schools, as a way of reducing the spread of the virus and enabling fewer pupils and staff to have to self-isolate.

Setting up this programme in schools is an incredibly complex operation. We have been sent some information about how it should work already, but more detailed guidance is expected to be produced by the government over the Christmas holiday period.

Therefore, we will not be in a position to have this programme up and running as soon as the spring term starts. At the start of term, we will review what the expectations are, what support is available from the government or other agencies, and what we can realistically deliver.

We will let you know more about our plans as soon as we can in January. In the meantime, from the start of next term, we will continue to implement the safety measures we have been using in the autumn term.

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Smith', written in a cursive style.

**Mr P Smith**  
**Headteacher**