

1 January 2021

START OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have still had the chance to enjoy the festive period and your families are safe and well.

No doubt you will have seen by now that the North East has been placed in Tier 4 and as national advice is fast changing, advice to schools is too. Following the government announcement on Wednesday please find below our updated arrangements for the start of term:

Week commencing Monday 4th January

- School is closed to all year groups
- Remote learning will be available to all students in all year groups. All students will be expected to attend online
- For those students sitting public exams in either Music, Health & Beauty or Travel & Tourism, the exams and organised revision sessions will go ahead as planned and students are expected to attend

Monday 11th January

- School is open to year 11
- Remote learning will be available to all other students. All students will be expected to follow their timetables and complete all learning tasks set

Monday 18th January

- School is open to all students

The information above is subject to change depending on further government announcements. We look forward to welcoming all students back into school at the earliest opportunity. In the meantime please read the important information below about remote learning.

I know that many parents will be frustrated that further school time will be missed, especially if your child has had to self-isolate at points last term.

Steve Campbell Principal

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Fortunately at North Gosforth, remote learning through Frog means that students can access learning, usually through expertly designed learning tasks, Oak National Academy lessons, or narrated PowerPoints. Our students will be able to follow their normal timetable online from home. Please see the detailed guide to Remote Learning written by Mr Fryer which can also be found on our website [here](#). Read this carefully as it will solve most of the problems or issues that you may encounter.

If your child does not have IT access at home please contact Mr Fryer so that we can help support.

Further information on free school meals will follow for the parents of children not in school in the first week.

Most parents have already responded to my request in the last bulletin with regards to critical worker/vulnerable provision. Thank you for doing this. If you require a critical worker/vulnerable child place for school in the first week, please contact admin@northgosforth.co.uk.

Testing

The government has made a number of announcements about mass testing in schools. We are pleased that the government is putting plans in place to ensure that schools are as safe as they can be and that students and staff have access to rapid testing.

However, I do have to make clear to parents that it is highly unlikely any significant testing will take place in school in the first weeks of the term.

We currently have no equipment or tests in school, nor do we have any information about when this will be delivered. We have no staff qualified or trained to administer tests and no facilities set up for testing to take place. As I'm sure you will appreciate, it will take some time to put in place safely the staff and equipment that is necessary to roll this out.

Further information will follow on this in January and when testing is available in school it will require parental consent.

Please contact the school at admin@northgosforth.co.uk if you would like to discuss any of this information in more detail. The school is closed so it may be Monday 4th January before you receive a response. Apologies once again for the timescale for this which is out of the school's hands.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Campbell
Principal