



30th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Returning to School in January - Update

I very much hope you and your families were able to have a good Christmas. News this morning of the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine being approved was good for us to hear as we look to hopefully move forward with the pandemic which we are all currently living through. This comes at a time however when infection rates are rising quickly and we are aware that the next few months are going to be really important to navigate. The government this afternoon have chosen to take the step of re-thinking the term starting arrangements for next week in all secondary schools in England.

Therefore as a result of this:

- In the week beginning **Monday 4th January** students in all year groups (apart from those students mentioned below) will 'learn from home'. We have an INSET day on Monday 4th January so no work will be set for this day but it will for the rest of the week in most of our subjects.
- Arrangements for in-school supervision of the children of critical workers and those needing additional support will continue as planned from Tuesday 5th January but will now run until Friday 15th January (letters have already gone out directly to those students who we believe fit this category but please do contact us if you require clarification via enquiries@chewvalleyschool.co.uk). This will now include any Year 11 and 13 students who fall into this category who as of yet have not been contacted.
- External public examinations due to be taken in January will continue as planned.
- **From Monday 11th January** Year 11 and 13 will return to school, with other year groups continuing to 'learn from home'.
- **From Monday 18th January** all students are due to return to school.
- **Year 12 and 13 examinations will now start on Tuesday 19th January** with the schedule pushed back once more.

I would add that it is our intention to continue to run our Year 9 Options Evening online on Tuesday 12th January, as well as both our Year 7 and Year 8 Parents' Information Evenings online on Wednesday 6th January.

Part of the reasoning given by the government to start later, in addition to offering a firebreak following the Christmas period, is to enable us to get our testing procedures up and running which we have been working on during the holiday. It is my intention to write to you again on Monday following the weekend with details for how consent by parents/carers for students to be involved in this can be given (if there is a wish for students not to be involved in this then no consent can be given and the school will very much respect this decision). In addition, my letter on Monday will cover in detail once more arrangements for students to access the lessons provided during the period at home, referred to in my letter dated 18th December.

It feels very strange to be writing to parents and carers on the day before New Year's Eve; however I hope you understand my reasoning for doing so.

With best wishes

Gareth Beynon
Headteacher