

NC/JS

31 December 2020

Dear Parent, Carers and Students

I hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas period and are looking forward to welcoming in the new year.

Following the Government's announcement yesterday regarding the staggered return of schools in January, I wanted to update you on the actions being taken by the UTC.

I wrote to you at the end of last term to tell you that based on the lack of clarity around the proposed delay to the start of term to facilitate the implementation of mass testing the UTC would be open as normal from the 4 January for all year groups. The feasibility of implementing mass testing in our setting is still in question due to a multitude of logistical challenges. School leaders from across the City are meeting on Monday 4 January 2021, with representatives from Public Health England, to discuss these difficulties and we will communicate any updates to you in due course. Current contact tracing arrangements will continue for the foreseeable future whilst the feasibility of mass testing is further explored. As before the Christmas break please do not send students to the UTC if they are showing symptoms or awaiting a test result. Please notify the UTC if any student is awaiting a test result or is currently self-isolating.

Despite our ambition to keep our students in the UTC, yesterday's announcement was a national directive with the additional aim of reducing the transmission of the virus. Therefore, **the UTC will not be open to students week commencing 4 January 2021**, with lessons being delivered remotely to ALL students. In order to do this effectively and give teachers the opportunity to modify planning *no teaching* will take place on Monday 4 January, with remote learning commencing from Tuesday 5 January. Further details on the timetable of lessons and any logistical information that students and parents will need to know will be sent to you on Monday 4 January 2021. Lessons will be delivered via Microsoft Teams as per previous periods of remote learning.

Any mock examinations planned in the first week will be rescheduled further information will follow regarding this.

Priority students, including those whose parents are key workers, will have on-site provision provided from Tuesday 5 January. Any students classed as extremely clinically vulnerable are advised to stay at home until further notice. These students will be contacted individually w/c 4 January 2021.

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From Monday 11 January 2021 any year group with examinations in the January series will return to the UTC for face-to-face lessons and to sit their exams. Based on the current guidance all students return on Monday 18 January 2021. Remote learning will continue for all year groups not in attendance during this period. If you have any questions about examinations or remote learning please contact the UTC on Monday 4 January and we will be more than happy to advise.

A limited on-site catering offer will be available at breaks and lunchtimes for any student in attendance. If a student receives Free School Meals and is not attending the UTC, a food parcel will be available for collection. Please contact the UTC from Monday 4 January to arrange ordering and collection. Email adminolp@utcsheffield.org.uk

May I also take this opportunity to thank you for your understanding and support as we deal with an ever-changing situation. We are reacting to continual updates to guidance and trying to interpret this in the unique context of our setting as quickly as possible.

Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stevenson".

Mrs Jessica Stevenson
Principal
UTC OLP