

5<sup>th</sup> January 2021

**Parents and Carers of  
TQEA Students**

Dear Parent / Carer,

I wrote to you last week following the Government’s announcement just before the New Year about when pupils would return to our academy this term.

I am sorry to be writing to you again so soon on this subject. However, as you may have seen, the Prime Minister has now announced a new national lockdown because of rising infection rates of Covid-19 and to try to prevent the further spread of the virus.

As part of this, all primary schools, secondary schools and colleges in England are to be closed from today for in-person attendance, except for children of key workers or vulnerable children.

The Prime Minister also announced that “not all exams” would go ahead as normal this year and that there would be alternative arrangements. He said the Government would set out further details on this at a later date, and when that information is announced, we will update those of you whose children are due to take exams this year.

**From today:**

**If you or your partner is a key worker, or if your child is classed as vulnerable, then the academy will remain open**, as now, and we look forward to seeing them as normal for teaching and learning. In meeting DfE guidance we will be asking parents to confirm their critical keyworker status.

For those attending in person, we will be maintaining the approach to safe working and infection control that we have adopted throughout the pandemic.

**For all other pupils, we will be offering remote provision – this is likely to be until at least the end of the February half-term.** High-quality remote learning will be provided to make sure our pupils continue to receive a consistent education. We know that this places pressure on you at a difficult time but your support in helping your child engage as much as possible is so important and we are very grateful for it.

We are teaching using MS Teams which will mean that most lessons will start with a live element with the teacher. There will be registration and well-being support at 8:45 am each morning with tutors. Students are expected to attend these lessons. Since we are moving to this form of remote learning in this instance we are expecting that there may be teething issues and technical problems that need sorting out. In order to support students we have set up a technical support hotline number which can be reached on: - 01827 737718.

I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you wholeheartedly for your understanding and ongoing support in helping us to manage this unprecedented situation. Please continue to take care and to stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'NH Harding', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Neil Harding  
Principal  
The Queen Elizabeth Academy