



Assalamalaikum Wa Rahmathulahi wa Barakathuhu

Thursday 31st December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope and pray you are all well and safe, especially during these unusual times. I am writing to keep you informed about how our school has chosen to respond to the most recent government guidance shared on 30th December and any changes you need to be made aware of.

The latest guidance from the Department of education can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021/schools-and-childcare-settings-return-in-january-2021>

From the 4th of January

- Only vulnerable children and children of critical workers will return to school. Please contact the school, via email or text if you are a key worker and your child has to attend school.
- ALL other students will still be expected to **attend 'virtual school'** and will be receiving all lessons via TEAMS during this first week.

From 11th January: Year 11 only are expected back into school for face to face teaching.

From 18th January: ALL remaining classes will start back in school for face to face teaching.

All students should log into TEAMS as per normal. The remote learning policy is on our school website. All lessons will start at normal lesson time of 8.40am.

Mass Testing

There is still very little clarity regarding how mass testing will work in secondary schools and we are awaiting for the Bolton health meeting for schools on Monday 4th January and DofE webinars for more information.

From what we have established from the briefings over the Christmas holidays, we are planning to trial mass testing with Year 11 in the first instance. The mass testing model requires all those taking part to have two lateral flow tests between 3 and 5 days apart.

On Monday we will be making plans to offer an **optional** initial test to all our Y11 students during the week beginning January 4th. I will contact all Y11 parents with further information about this next week. **This is of course all dependant on this being logistically possible** e.g. that we receive the testing equipment and suitable training as promised by the Department of Education.

- Please note**
- We will obtain parental consent for any testing.
 - If testing takes place it will be self-administered by the young people themselves.
 - Testing will not be compulsory.

Believe - Achieve - Succeed

BOLTON ISLAMIC GIRLS SCHOOL

Weston House, Weston Street, Bolton, BL3 2AW

☎ 01204 771 570 ✉ info@boltonislamicgirlsschool.org.uk

www.boltonislamicgirlsschool.org.uk



Thank you for your patience and understanding during this very difficult situation. The current situation is far from ideal. Our teachers will be working hard to plan engaging, high quality remote learning for the period that students are learning from home. Please support us by ensuring your child is up and dressed ready to engage in this learning.

We will continue to update you with any other news and information as soon as we receive it. If you have any queries or questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Dr Zakia Maqbool

Headteacher

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