18.12.20

**RE: Guidance to return in January 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the government advice released late on 17 December, the Academy will be open to Vulnerable children and the children of Critical workers from 5 to 8 January. All other students will physically return to school on 11 January.

The definition of critical workers and vulnerable children is given in the government guidance and

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-maintaining-educational-provision/guidance-for-schools-colleges-and-local-authorities-on-maintaining-educational-provision>.

**Booking a Critical/Vulnerable Space from 5-8 January**

If your child is eligible to return to school on 5 January, please book them a place on our school appointment system. This is the same system we used for Progress review day and the same login and passwords will apply: <https://wixamsacademy.schoolcloud.co.uk/>

You will be notified via email when the booking system goes live for bookings. The booking link will be in this email or alternatively can be accessed via the school website:

<https://www.wixamsacademy.co.uk/parent-information/critical-worker-and-vulnerable/>

This link is located in the ‘Parent tab’ or by clicking on the scrolling message on the home page of the school’s website. If there are any issues with booking over the Christmas period then please contact the school email address info@wixamsacademy.co.uk and this will be dealt with on Monday 4th January.

**Remote Learning From 5-8 January**

All other students will be taught their timetable remotely on Teams. Timetables went home with students this week and have been posted to students isolating. Please contact your form tutor if you do not have a timetable and this will be sent on 4 January by email. The new timings of our school day are attached and lessons will start at the times shown for specific year groups. For Year 7 students, teachers will also set the same work on Show My Homework. Any Year 8, 9, 10 students who do not have access to Teams, please inform your Head of Year.

Students will not be expected to attend the Early registration (8.40am), Prep or Enrichment lessons (Years 9 & 10) on Teams. All other lessons the teacher will be present at the beginning of the session to register the class, then teach the lesson or set up a task and answer questions.

Please be assured that we are doing everything to ensure that your child has a successful return to education in the New Year. We will update you regularly as the government advice becomes clearer.

Wishing you all a restful Christmas.

Yours Sincerely,

**Mr Paul Spyropoulos**

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**Principal of Wixams Academy**

**Definition of Critical workers:**

Parents whose work is critical to the coronavirus (COVID-19) response include those who work in health and social care and in other key sectors outlined in the following sections.

**Health and social care**

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK’s health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

**Education and childcare**

This includes:

childcare

support and teaching staff

social workers

specialist education professionals who must remain active during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response to deliver this approach

**Key public services**

This includes:

those essential to the running of the justice system

religious staff

charities and workers delivering key frontline services

those responsible for the management of the deceased

journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

**Local and national government**

**This only includes:**

those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the coronavirus (COVID-19) response

or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arms length bodies

**Food and other necessary goods**

This includes those involved in food:

production

processing

distribution

sale and delivery

as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

**Public safety and national security**

This includes:

police and support staff

**Ministry of Defence civilians**

contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak)

fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)

**National Crime Agency staff**

those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

**Transport**

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

**Utilities, communication and financial services**

This includes:

staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)

the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)

information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the coronavirus (COVID-19) response

key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)

postal services and delivery

payments providers

waste disposal sectors

**Definition of Vulnerable Children**:

Vulnerable children and young people include those who:

* are assessed as being in need under section 17 of the Children Act 1989, including children and young people who have a child in need plan, a child protection plan or who are a looked-after child
* have an education, health and care (EHC) plan
* have been identified as otherwise vulnerable by educational providers or local authorities (including children’s social care services), and who could therefore benefit from continued full-time attendance, this might include:
* adopted children or children on a special guardianship order
* those who are young carers
* other children and young people at the provider and local authority’s discretion including pupils who need to attend to receive support or manage risks to their mental health

