



Wednesday 30th December, 2020.

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This afternoon the government announced that schools will not return as planned from next week. As you know, in the days leading up to the end of term we were told that the return of pupils would be staggered with Year 11 returning from the 5<sup>th</sup> of January (we have an INSET day on the 4<sup>th</sup>) and all other year groups the following week.

Given the rapid escalation in the infection rate nationally over the last couple of weeks the government have announced this evening that the staggered return for pupils will be delayed and that pupils will not be returning next week. Gavin Williamson announced that he wants to provide schools with additional time to establish mass testing arrangements for staff and pupils upon their return to school.

This means that, at the moment, Year 11 pupils are due to return from Monday 11<sup>th</sup> of January with all other year groups due to return from the 18<sup>th</sup> of January. At present schools are awaiting some further clarity and details that will be included in the published guidance from the Department for Education, at the time of writing this information hasn't been released to schools.

I realise therefore that I can't pass detailed information at this stage as we ourselves are awaiting some further information but I felt it important to let you know as soon as possible that pupils will not be returning to school from next week. I'm mindful that it is Thursday tomorrow and this leaves you little time to make necessary arrangements for your family ahead of next week.

From Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> of January we will be providing a provision for the children of critical key workers and those identified as being vulnerable. Thank you to those parents who are key workers who have informed us that their child will be attending school. We have spoken to the families of vulnerable pupils in Year 7 to 10. Of course, as Year 11 are now not returning to school next week we will contact the parents of vulnerable pupils in Year 11 on Monday ahead of term commencing on Tuesday. Year 11 parents who are critical key workers and who intend for their child to attend school from next week should notify us by emailing [keyworkers@penkethhigh.org](mailto:keyworkers@penkethhigh.org).

I will be issuing more information to all parents in the coming days with further details around our mass testing programme, how you can opt in for your child to receive a COVID test and will also be providing information about remote learning over the next two weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin.

Principal.



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