

Dear Parents and Carers,

Well, there's certainly never been a start to an academic year quite like it and sadly, we're not out of the woods quite yet. Despite everything, the students have been truly fantastic and school has felt "normal." Lessons have ensured progress, friendships have been made and laughter has been heard – thank you! "Team Sherburn" at its best, and I know, that whatever 2021 brings, we will rise to the challenge.

But first...Government announcements in the past 24 hours have given schools little time to plan and be able to effectively communicate with you. I apologise, that this therefore means that inevitably I will contact you again over the Christmas holidays or on Monday 4th January.

I can, however, share with you our current response to the government directive that there is to be a staggered return in January, which is as follows:

Staggered Return to School January 2020

Monday 4 th January	School remains closed to all students for staff training as per previously published training day schedule
Tuesday 5 th January	School opens to students in Years 10,11,12 and 13*
Monday 11 th January	School opens to students in all year groups

*These groups have been identified as meeting the government criteria for face-to-face provision for examination year groups. These year groups all either have modular external examinations, mock examinations or assessments during January.

Remote Learning for Years 7, 8 and 9

From Tuesday 5th January, up to and including Friday 8th January students in Years 7 – 9 will access Remote Learning. Further details will follow.

Provision for Critical Workers and Vulnerable Families

For parents/carers whose families fall under the Critical Worker/Vulnerable family categories provision on site is available. If you believe that your child is eligible please email admin@shs.starmat.uk by Wednesday 30th December.

Despite the extremely short notice in relation to the staggered start, I must impress upon parents/carers that this provision is only available to those families who meet the criteria. It is important that numbers are kept low, in order for the school to effectively remain Covid-secure and to prepare for lateral flow testing of Coronavirus for all staff and students.

Thank you in advance for your support with this – I appreciate that the timing, is less than ideal for families.

Coronavirus Testing in Schools

This initiative has only very recently been announced to schools by the Government. In fact, the national on-line introduction to the scheme for school leaders is scheduled for this afternoon. I will of course update you as soon as I am in a position to do so.

COVID-19 Positive Cases/requirement to self-isolate over the Christmas holidays

I truly hope that every single family is able to enjoy good health this holiday. However, if any child receives a positive Covid-19 test result, or is required to self-isolate please follow the steps below.

If your child receives a positive COVID-19 test result from Saturday 19 December – Thursday 24 December, please follow the following procedure:

1. Email admin@shs.starmat.uk as soon as possible
2. In your email, please provide the following information:
 - a. Name of your child, year group and form group;
 - b. The date your child developed symptoms;
 - c. Date that your child last attended school;
 - d. Test date;
 - e. Result date;
 - f. The names of any students that your child may have been in 'close contact' with on their way to and from school, during break and lunch
3. School staff will then identify any other students who may have been in 'close contact' during lessons through our electronic seating plans;
4. For any student identified as a 'close contact' ***we will notify a parent/carer via text message of the requirement to self-isolate.***

***Please note that in terms of 'close contact' we define this as being within 1 metre for more than one minute or within 2 metres for 15 minutes.**

If your child receives a positive COVID-19 test result from Friday 25 December – Monday 4th January, please follow the following procedure:

1. Email admin@shs.starmat.uk as soon as possible
2. In your email, please provide the following information:
 - a. Name of your child, year group and form group;
 - b. The date your child developed symptoms;
 - c. Test date;
 - d. Result date;
 - e. Date your child is expected to return to school following their period of self-isolation

If your child is required to self-isolate at any point from Tuesday 22 December – Monday 4th January (and this isn't as a result of the school informing you of the need to do this), please follow the following procedure:

1. Email admin@shs.starmat.uk as soon as possible;
2. In your email, please provide the following information:
 - a. Name of your child, year group and form group;
 - b. Whether your child has any symptoms and the start date of those symptoms;
 - c. Date your child is expected to return to school following their period of self-isolation.

***Please send a follow up email if your child subsequently receives a positive test in line with the guidance on the previous page.**

Wellbeing Support for Students

As the Christmas holidays begin, especially in such challenging times, I'm writing to remind students about the BUZZ US text service on ChatHealth. The service for young people aged 11-18 in North Yorkshire, is open Monday-Thursday 9 am – 5 pm and Friday 9 – 4.30 pm.



The Real Stars of the Show!

I think it's important that the real stars of the show bring this term to an end – our students! I hope you've been following us on Twitter and seen our Performing Arts students entertain us with their Christmas Advent, or seen Year 11 grappling with the complexities of A level studies on their Sixth Form Taster Day and marvelled at the incredible talent of our artists, historians and much, much more.

This week's "Stars of the Show" go to the following Super Six Lucky Dip Winners: Talia Kanaa, Alex Wallington, Max Sanderson, Max Clarkson, Izzy Hargreaves, Lily Smith, Dylan Shields, Kacey Crawshaw, James Lodge, Harvey Hinsley, Fintan Wheelhouse and Abbie Davis.



Congratulations also go to Lucie Clifton for achieving her Bronze Duke of Edinburgh award and Lucie Thomas and James Butler for their award-winning art work!

And finally...

However, you spend the next couple of weeks, I hope that you all manage to have some time that is filled with joy and laughter. Stay well and as always thank you for your on-going support.

Yours sincerely,

Miriam Oakley
Headteacher
Sherburn High School