



# Hillcrest School & Sixth Form Centre

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18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

## Teaching and Learning from 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> January 2021: Year 11,12 & 13

I am sorry to be writing this letter now on the last day of term. You may have watched the announcement from the Department for Education last night and wonder what this means for your child in the first week back after the Christmas break. The government announced that Secondary schools will have a staggered start to the beginning of the next term with some students working remotely. Headteachers across the country received this information from BCC at the same time as the public.

The week beginning Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021:

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January- Inset Day (Teacher Training Day)
- Students in Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 will be taught remotely with a mixture of pre-recorded lessons by Hillcrest Staff and tasks set on Show My Homework. Students should follow their normal timetable and I have outlined details further down this letter. Students will return to school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.
- Students in Years 11,12 & 13 will return to school as normal on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

I am truly sorry for any students who will miss face-to-face teaching during this week.

## Testing of Covid-19 in Secondary Schools

Please also be aware that the government has announced this week that rapid testing of Covid-19 will be taking place in Secondary schools which means that staff and students will have access to mass testing in January. Specifically, this means that staff will be tested weekly (with results taking 30 minutes) and students, who are identified as close contacts of someone testing positive, can be tested daily for 7 consecutive days and remain in school if they test negative. This testing will be optional, but those not consenting would be subject to the normal 10-day self-isolation period at home.

We have not been provided with the full details of how this will work logistically and so will contact you early January with how this will work within our school community.

## Mental Health and Well-being

Kooth is an online mental well-being community that offers free, safe and anonymous support. They have created some fun and achievable activities to support young people's emotional health and wellbeing. <https://www.kooth.com/>

As your child will be using more online resources than usual, it is even more important that Parents and Carers and students themselves keep up to date with online safety guidance.

Please find below a link which gives information on some of the things to think about to make sure your child's experience online is safe and fun.

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

As always, please do not hesitate to contact school via email if you require any further support or guidance. **General enquiries: [Enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk](mailto:Enquiry@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk)**

'Pupils' conduct is excellent. Around the School and in lessons, pupils are courteous and confident.'  
'Strong ambition for improving outcomes for all pupils has led to good examination results.'  
(Ofsted 2017)

Safeguarding: If you have any other concerns that are affecting your child's emotional well-being, or are concerned about a Hillcrest student, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the safeguarding team ([safeguarding@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk](mailto:safeguarding@hillcrest.bham.sch.uk)) for advice and support.

As always both teaching and support staff will continue to do their very best to support your child in these challenging circumstances, and we appreciate your continued support. We look forward to welcoming students in Year 11,12 and 13 back in school on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 and all other year groups on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J A Davies', written in a cursive style.

Ms J A Davies  
Headteacher

