



An All-through Co-operative School
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Dear Families

Although I have already sent you our end of term letter, I find myself having to write to you again today after the government's surprising and last minute announcement last night. This is a very fast moving pandemic and things are constantly changing, but as you may realise, Headteachers up and down the country were not aware of the two major developments this week.

Firstly, we will be having some sort of testing centre on site and mass testing should take place from January. I have no further information, but will be writing to you in January to give you more details, request support from interested volunteers and ask for your 'consent' to your child being tested. No child will be tested without consent. *Please look out for this communication in the new year.*

The second major announcement was that **Years 7-10 and Year 12 will be learning remotely the first week** after the holiday period. I am truly sorry that many students who have missed face to face teaching over this past term, will have to do so again. However, I believe the underlying reason for the remote learning is to reduce the possible rise in infections after Christmas. For this reason, it is best that we are cautious and reduce the students on site. **Year 11 and Year 13 will start as normal on 4th January.** Please be on time. **Year 11 will be sitting their Pre Public Exams (PPEs) as normal.**

Remote Learning (4th - 8th January)

Remote learning for Years 7, 8, 9, 10 and 12 will consist of 'live lessons' with classroom teachers which will be delivered on Zoom or on Google Meets. Teachers will deliver live teaching for the first half of each lesson and will post up the links for this on their Google classrooms. Students will then be set further tasks to complete for the remainder of each lesson.

It is very important that your child ***follows their normal school timetable*** so that they can attend all their live lessons across the day. They must join these lessons on time, engage in the learning and ask questions if they need further help or support. They must upload their completed work using the Google classroom platform. Please see the 'Remote Learning' section of the school website for further detail on expectations for students: [Expectations for students](#)

If your child is finding it difficult to access remote learning, they may find this guide helpful: [Remote Learning - Student Guide](#) They can also email their class teacher using their school email address or send a message to them on their Google Classroom. Parents can also communicate issues with remote learning using this email address: remotelearning@preston-manor.com

Access to Online Devices

With students from Year 7 to 10 and Year 12 requiring to remain at home for the first week of the term (4th January - 8th January), it is vital that they are able to access a device other than a smartphone during the school day. If your child meets any of the criteria bullet pointed below, which would restrict them being able to complete their school work remotely, then please contact your child's DSD via email **from Monday 4th January**:

- No access to a device (not including a smartphone)
- Shares a device with more than one sibling who is also self-isolating
- No access to a fixed broadband connection

Your DSD's email address is DSD?@preston-manor.com. Simply replace the ? with your child's year group. E.g. Year 7 would be DSD7@preston-manor.com. **Please note your DSD will not be responding to any communications during the Christmas holidays.** Once you have contacted us to inform us, we will contact you to arrange for you to collect a loaned school device from school, which your child must bring back when they return to school.

Please note: Rapid Tests available for Brent residents

Just to highlight that everyone in Brent aged 12 and over can now get *free and regular coronavirus tests, even if you haven't got symptoms*. These include the new 'rapid tests', which provide results **within 40 minutes**. You do not need to wait for testing centres to be set up in schools. We all need to get tested even if you feel well, as 1 in 3 people who have COVID-19 show no symptoms but could be sharing the virus with loved ones and around the community without knowing. The more of us that have the test, the more we'll be able to contain the virus, and the faster we can get back to the lives we love.

Rapid COVID-19 testing is available at the following sites Monday to Sunday, from 9am-6pm (all sites will be closed on bank holidays):

- Brent Civic Centre
- Bridge Park Community Leisure Centre
- Central Mosque Brent
- Ealing Road Library
- Father O'Callaghan Centre
- Harlesden Library
- Kingsbury Library
- The Granville
- The Library at Willesden Green

To find out more and book a test, visit www.brent.gov.uk/covidtesting or call 020 8937 4440.

Finally, I look forward to welcoming you back in the new year and will be in touch with inevitable changes come 4th January! We will welcome our year 11s and year 13s back on site, promptly at the gates and the rest of the Upper School community online for registrations and lessons.

Please let me wish you a restful and safe holiday period with your family.

Kind regards,



Beth Kobel
Headteacher