



High Tunstall College of Science

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Headteacher: Mark R Tilling

Deputy Headteachers: Peter W Hayward and Laura Ovens

30th December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Following the government's announcement that Hartlepool will be placed into Tier 4 Covid-19 restrictions we have been informed that we can **only open** on Tuesday 5th January for the **children of key workers** and children that meet the governments defined **vulnerable groups**. In my letter dated 18th December there was a link for parents to complete in regards to needing access to College for these defined groups and access to ICT equipment. Please complete the link [here](#) so we can support you all over the next few weeks.

I know that having to close the College to the majority of the students will be disappointing, but we all must do our best to help defeat this virus. I am pleased to say that **live lessons** will start on Tuesday morning and **our expectation** is that **all** students attend their lessons on Microsoft Teams as normal and follow their usual timetable. We return on **week 2** and students who do not attend lessons will be contacted by college staff to find out why this is the case.

Those students who are attending college because they are children of key workers or are defined as vulnerable must go to their normal classrooms to follow their normal timetable.

Students in Year 10 and 11 who have external examinations in January need to be aware that these are still due to go ahead. It is important for those affected that they continue to revise so they can do their best and achieve their target grades. Year 11 parents will be aware that the mock examinations are due to start the week beginning Monday 11th January. The timing of these will be looked at again; Mrs Ovens and Mr Turner will be in contact early next week with further details, but students must not stop revising and working towards their exams.

Testing in Schools

In regards to the well-publicised Testing for Covid-19 in schools we have allocated the Tunstall Active building as our Testing station. The biggest issue we have is staffing the testing station, we simply do not believe we have enough people to carry out the testing that we are being asked to do.

If you as a parent feel able to volunteer to support our testing regime in any way, then I would be happy to hear from you. Please contact me direct on my email address mtilling@hightunstall.hartlepool.sch.uk and I will contact you as soon as I can.

We will be sending further information out to parents on Monday 4th January which will include:

- I. A letter informing you of the details of the testing regime at HTCS
- II. A privacy notice
- III. A consent form

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Against this background, senior colleagues and I will only institute testing when we have the resources and capacity to do so. I know that many of you will have further questions regarding both the education of your son/daughter and the testing regime in the College and I will endeavour to keep you up to date as much as we can over the coming days as information is shared with School Leaders and the Local Authority.

As you will fully understand matters are extremely changeable at present and it is important that you are aware that these plans could change at very short notice.

As ever, my priority remains the safe education of your son/daughter so they can get the best possible academic outcomes. I know how frustrating this must all be and I cannot thank you all enough for the support you have shown us at the College.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Tilling', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr Mark Tilling
Headteacher