



# High Tunstall College of Science

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Headteacher: Mark R Tilling

Deputy Headteachers: Peter W Hayward and Laura Ovens

18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I do hope that you and your families are staying safe and apologise in having to write once again with changes to our opening plans for January. You will have seen the Government announcement yesterday that we can only open to students in examination years, vulnerable students and students of critical workers on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2021.

In consultation with Hartlepool Borough Council and other Secondary Headteachers in Hartlepool I can confirm that the start to the new college term will be staggered. Y10 and 11 students will return to college on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 8.35am for an 8.40am start, Years 7 to 9 will return on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> January at 8.35am for an 8.40am start.** *Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 is a calendared staff PD day.*

Students in Year 7 – 9 will be expected to complete their lessons via remote learning, a blend of live lessons and pre-planned work via our digital platform, Microsoft Teams. Where available teachers will be live online as their normal timetable will run. We return on **week 2** of our timetable cycle. The ARC and Shine Centre will be open as normal.

Year 11 GCSE Mock examinations will be running as planned throughout January.

If you are a critical worker and require your son/daughter to be in College from Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January to Friday 8<sup>th</sup> January, you must complete the Microsoft Form attached [here](#) by Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December 2020. Your son/daughter will be able to join their teacher in their classroom and take part in lessons as normal. If your son/daughter is classed as vulnerable, as defined by the Department for Education, you will have been contacted over the last 24 hours to confirm that your attendance is compulsory. If you have a problem with accessing work online in any way, please indicate appropriately on the form [here](#). We will endeavour to put a plan in place so that we can provide electronic devices for those that need it for the week.

We appreciate that this is very late notice and could cause great inconvenience but it is essential that we follow the guidelines as set down by the DFE in regards to Covid-19 to keep all students, staff and the wider High Tunstall Community safe.

Following on from the change in isolation guidance from 14 days to 10 days, I would like to confirm that if your son or daughter tests positive in the period of Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> and up to Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December and were symptomatic within 48 hours of last being in College that you email us so we are able to assist with track and trace at:

[mtilling@hightunstall.hartlepool.sch.uk](mailto:mtilling@hightunstall.hartlepool.sch.uk) or [dpickford@hightunstall.hartlepool.sch.uk](mailto:dpickford@hightunstall.hartlepool.sch.uk)

This will enable us to review where your son/daughter has been in college and contact those families who may be affected. We have placed an information sheet on our website to aid with this process. As of midnight on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> December, the Government Track and Trace system will take effect. Please be advised that if we have to ring you to ask you to self-isolate then you will have to follow the Government guidelines.

<https://htcs.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Christmas-Reporting-Procedure-2020-V2.pdf>

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I am sure you will also have read that all secondary schools will be provided with resources to have a rapid test centre on site so we are able to keep all in education and safe from Covid-19. We have been given very little information on this and the Secretary of State for Education indicated that the remote learning discussed in this letter is determined to allow us to prepare for this to happen. I am in no doubt that further guidance will be sent out during the Christmas break and we will do all we can to make sense of it and communicate our plans as soon as practicable.

If we become aware of any new guidance that affects our plans we will be in contact on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

I would like to thank you for your continued support and I would like to say that we are coming to the end of a very difficult year but we look forward to 2021. We as a College will continue to do our best to support all at the College and ensure they can achieve in their studies.

Merry Christmas, stay safe and see you in 2021.

Yours sincerely

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

**Mr Mark Tilling**  
**Headteacher**