

January 2021

Dear Students and Parents

Following on from the Prime Minister's recent announcement, it saddens me to confirm that the school will be shut to all students apart from those who are vulnerable or those whose parents are critical keyworkers. For all other students remote learning will be offered.

The staff at Regents Park will still be working full time to support our students and their families and we can be contacted using the usual telephone number and email address. There will also be a team of staff who will make calls to check on students' wellbeing and their learning, although some of these calls make take place off site with staff withholding numbers.

All the information from this letter will be included in an 'RPCC COVID Guide 2021' and uploaded to the website. It will be regularly updated so this can then be parents' main reference point

### **Remote Teaching and Learning**

We are trying to replicate the 'normal school day' as much as possible to support with students' learning but also their well-being, so student and teachers will be following the normal timetable. Lessons will be a mix of live, recorded, activities or links to platforms, but details of this will be uploaded to each class's Google Classroom and this will act as the central communication point.

In live lessons, teachers will deliver learning and include some elements of activity. Where appropriate, students can be unmuted to contribute to any discussions. There is also a 'chat' feature where students can type any questions linked to the learning. The teacher has control over whether to allow discussions or 'chats' depending on the needs of the group.

Can I take this opportunity to remind parents that these lessons are for the students only and we respectfully request that relatives do not participate in lessons, no matter how interesting the topic! This is to protect both staff and other students in the virtual classroom. Should parents have any feedback or questions about this remote provision, then please contact staff in the usual ways.

We will be monitoring participation of students as we would normally do at school. This will allow us to help if they are not accessing the learning. Our aim is to provide students with the best quality online learning throughout this remote period. Things may not be perfect whilst we experiment with new technologies, so please bear with us - we would be grateful for your patience during this time.

King Edward Avenue  
Southampton  
SO16 4GW

T: 023 8032 5444

E: [info@regentspark.southampton.sch.uk](mailto:info@regentspark.southampton.sch.uk)

W: [www.regentsparkcollege.org.uk](http://www.regentsparkcollege.org.uk)

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Headteacher : Mrs Samantha Barnes



Like all schools, we are facing a number of challenges during this pandemic such as staff illness and staff working remotely with their own families to supervise, so some lessons may be 'task based' rather than via Google Meet. We will aim to ensure that students get a good mix.

### Can paper copies of work be requested?

Online learning will be the primary way of teaching children. Where families are struggling to access ICT, please read the section about requesting laptop / tablets. If parents – or students – believe that paper versions of work are necessary, then please contact the school and we will arrange for work to be made available.

### Are any resources provided?

To support with students' remote learning we can provide a pack of resources, including paper, pens and a folder or wallet to organise any written materials. Please contact the school to let us know if this is something you require.

### Keyworker / Vulnerable Children

Although spaces are restricted, we will continue to offer places for critical keyworker and vulnerable children. The key information to be aware of for those 'critical worker and vulnerable students' attending school is:

- Places are limited and so must be requested in advance. Students will need to commit to the six weeks school shutdown. Should a student withdraw from their place and then change their mind, they would need to go on the waiting list.
- Students are organised into bubbles. Currently these are in year groups, but siblings have to be in the same bubble.
- Students are given access to ICT and use this to access the online learning provided by teachers.
- They are supervised by LSAs and other staff – not teachers as they will be delivering their timetabled live lessons.
- It would be useful if students could bring their own earphones to allow them to listen to the audio of the lessons, otherwise they may need to use subtitles.
- Each bubble has a separate start and end time and their breaks are staggered to avoid any mixing between groups.
- Students attending school should wear their full school uniform.
- All students on site must wear masks and regularly sanitize. Rooms are well ventilated so it would be sensible to bring a coat.
- Students will need to bring in their own lunch. This is also the case for students entitled to Free School Meals as we will be organising food boxes for these students.
- Places are restricted so please inform the school if your requirements change. Should you wish to request a place for your child for this provision, then contact the school in the usual way. Please note, we cannot guarantee a space for every student.

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## Testing

We are currently setting up a provision to deliver COVID testing for staff and students on site. A letter with a full explanation, privacy notice and a consent form will be sent to you towards the end of this week via email. Please complete and return the electronic form to us so that your child can be tested. Current guidance is that children will be tested twice when they return to school, once when they return and then a further test 3 to 5 days later. If they have been in close contact with someone who has COVID, they will then be tested daily for 7 days. Taking this test daily – and receiving a negative result – would allow your child to remain in school even if they have been in close contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID.

## Can children and families have help with ICT?

We have recently taken delivery of 100 devices (tablets and laptops) which we will allocate to students in need. Devices need to be PAT tested and have programmes installed and we are working as quickly as possible on this. Criteria to request are listed below – in order of priority. If you wish to apply for ICT support, please contact the school by telephone or email stating which of the criteria your child meets.

1. A looked after child (one who is in care, fostered or adopted)
2. A care leaver (a child who was previously looked after)
3. A child with a social worker
4. A child who has an EHCP
5. A 'Pupil Premium' child
6. A student who has Special Educational Needs
7. Year 10 and 11
8. A family with siblings at RPCC, where one laptop or tablet is being shared limiting access to live lessons.
9. Other year groups

## Communication and Senior Leadership Team Responsibilities

Heads of Year, Head of Year Supports, tutors and the admin team are all available to support with the usual enquiries, but listed below are the areas of responsibility which the leadership team will be overseeing during the lockdown period – and beyond! If you have a specific query it would be useful to include this on the subject line of the email, for example 'Teaching and Learning Query' or 'Laptop Request'

Mrs Barnes: Headteacher – Oversight of the school, site, staffing and students  
 Ms Webster: Deputy Headteacher – Keyworker bubbles and laptops  
 Mr Jones: Assistant Headteacher – Data, exams and parents' evenings  
 Mr Ramshaw: Assistant Headteacher – Student wellbeing / pastoral oversight  
 Miss Reed: Assistant Headteacher - Remote teaching and learning  
 Mr Strange: Director of Inclusion – Safeguarding; SEN and alternative provision.  
 Miss Amos: Business Manager – Health and safety, including Covid tests

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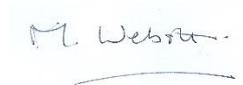
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Finally, I would like to thank parents for their support and kind words during this time. We have a shared priority and that is the academic, physical and mental wellbeing of Regents Park students and by continuing to work closely together we will do they very best for our young people in this uncertain time.

Please take care of yourselves and your family and we look forward to the time when we can safely welcome students back into school.

Yours faithfully



M Webster  
Deputy Headteacher

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