

Dear Parents and Carers,

Last night the Prime Minister's [statement](#) to the nation informed us that we are once again entering a full lockdown, instructing people to stay at home to control the virus, protect the NHS and save lives. A joint statement from the UK chief medical officers stated that:

*Cases are rising almost everywhere, in much of the country driven by the new more transmissible variant. We are not confident that the NHS can handle a further sustained rise in cases and without further action there is a material risk of the NHS in several areas being overwhelmed over the next 21 days.*

Both Primary and Secondary schools have been instructed to close from today for on-site attendance with the exception of vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers. All other pupils will be remotely educated until the February half term. We were also informed that summer examinations will not go ahead as planned. The Secretary of State will work with Ofqual to put in place alternative arrangements and more details will be published in due course. We will keep you updated as soon as we know more.

On behalf of all our schools within Tandridge Learning Trust, we would like to assure parents that we will do everything we can to support our pupils and our local communities at this difficult time. We were not given any advance warning of the lockdown and had therefore spent a lot of time planning for the return of pupils this term and the additional testing requirements for Secondary pupils. However, we have learnt to adapt quickly over the last few months and we can confirm that all our schools will remain open to support critical workers and those pupils who need us most. Each school has already contacted parents to make these arrangements and we are very grateful to all our staff who continue to put the needs of our pupils first.

Our priority is also to ensure that all pupils who are working from home can access the very best remote learning that we can offer. We are now in a much stronger position to provide this across all our schools than we were last March. Our commitment as a Trust is to maintain high quality educational provision and to minimise the loss of face to face teaching in school. We will provide clear guidance and meaningful assignments which will engage and challenge pupils. We have systems in place to regularly check in and connect with our pupils, provide encouragement and respond to work undertaken and inform you if we have any worries or concerns. Equally, each school has a clear policy for communication between home and school, if you have any concerns or IT access issues please get in touch with your school straight away.

We recognise that another full lockdown puts exceptional strain upon everyone but we hope that by supporting one another and adhering to the new rules we can bring the rate of infection back down. The roll out of the vaccine is increasing and this provides us all with hope for a brighter future.

We will keep you informed of any further changes as they take place. Thank you for your ongoing support and goodwill as we deal with the ever-changing guidance. Please take care and keep yourselves and your families safe.

With very best wishes,

Rebecca Plaskitt