Dear Families  
  
I hope you have been having a restful break. As I am sure many of you are aware, the government has made a number of announcements regarding schools in the last few days. I wanted to take the opportunity to inform you of what this means for West Bromwich Collegiate Academy.

**Return to School and Remote Learning**

We have been advised that schools will not have students, other than examination years, returning onsite until **Monday 18th January 2021**. This is a change to the letter we published at the end of term. The reason for this is to allow schools to set up for the mass COVID testing programme and to start testing students before they return.  
  
However, we intend to provide remote learning for all of our students, starting from **Tuesday 5th January 2021** with a full programme of four hours of live lessons per day delivered through Microsoft Teams. This will continue until we open. Further guidance on the timetable and access will be provided on 4th January 2021.

**Mass COVID Testing**

During this time, the Academy will be setting up to test students, devising plans, getting hold of the tests and undergoing a training programme to deliver testing to all our staff and students. This is designed to give you confidence that the Academy will be COVID secure. This will also continue throughout the year so that if there is a positive case, students will be able to access tests immediately. We will be providing more information on when students will be tested when we have deliveries and have undergone further training.

**Key Worker and Vulnerable Students**

The Academy will provide onsite learning for students whose parents are key workers or who are considered vulnerable from **Tuesday 5th January**. If you would like a place in this programme and believe you qualify as a key worker, please click to complete this form and we will be in contact on the 4th January to confirm the place. Students attending must be in full school uniform and will undertake the same remote learning as all other students.  
  
[Complete this form if you require a Key Worker/Vulnerable Place for your child.](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=M3cpbyH17EqwKDhN0u2mQ0jN5ss5RZhOk_wxrAxTc2tUN1I4TFIzTTZESjYyMTFQSFpJUEdHODM0Ti4u)

I apologise that many of these changes are last minute but we have had no advance notice of government announcements. I wish you all a happy New Year and hope that 2021 sees a welcome return to normality.

Yours sincerely

George Faux  
**Principal**