

## To Parents of Senior School Students at Sidcot School

31 December 2020

Dear Parent

### Arrangements for the Start of the Spring Term

I hope this finds you well and enjoying the break over the Festive Season. You may be aware that the UK Government has recently issued revised guidance for the start of the new school term. Please find details of how this will be implemented at Sidcot over the next few weeks.

### Online Supported Learning (OSL) and Mock Examinations

- OSL for all Senior School students will commence on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January**. Students are expected to attend all of their timetabled lessons and tutor periods via OSL during the weeks indicated in the table at the end of this letter. Further guidance for Year 7 students and their parents will be made available at the start of next week.
- Mock examinations for Year 11 and 13 students will take place as originally timetabled, with the exception of those due to take place on the 6, 7 and 8 January, which will be rescheduled. Further details on these rearranged exams will be made available next week.
- All public exams scheduled, such as BTEC and GCSE exams, will take place as originally timetabled by the exam boards.

### Lateral Flow Testing

- We will be following UK Government guidance on the mass testing of Senior School students and staff in School for COVID-19 using Lateral Flow tests. The tests will be conducted in School by staff trained to administer them.
- The tests utilise a saliva sample from each individual. The result of each test should be available within 30 minutes.
- In the event that a test is positive, parents of day students will be contacted and asked to take their child for a standard PCR test to confirm the initial test, with the child remaining in isolation until the test returns negative or the isolation period is complete.
- If a saliva test for a boarder indicates a positive result the student will be taken for a PCR test by the school staff and follow the same isolation procedure.

- We assume that all students will take part in the mass testing programme. However, if you would prefer for your child **not to be tested**, please contact the School, using the email [SpringTerm2021@sidcot.org.uk](mailto:SpringTerm2021@sidcot.org.uk), by Tuesday 5 January.

### Provision for Boarding Students

- The Boarding Houses continue to remain open and all boarders who have spent the Christmas break at home, are encouraged to come back to school on **Tuesday 5 January** as originally planned. We do understand, however, that some boarders are no longer able to arrive on that date due to cancelled flights so will expect a staggered return.
- We are currently making plans to accommodate the quarantine period for all those who require it but are no longer able to arrive on the official start date. Boarders on site will access their online supported learning in the boarding houses until they are able to return to face-to-face teaching as per the UK Government guidance.
- We will continue to have rigorous risk assessments in place to keep our boarders as safe as possible on the school site, both during the day and in the evening. Boarding staff are looking forward to having the boarding community together again.

Please find a summary of these arrangements below. I hope they will allow for an efficient start to term and minimise disruption to the learning of our students. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the School on the following email address:  
[SpringTerm2021@sidcot.org.uk](mailto:SpringTerm2021@sidcot.org.uk).

I would like to thank you in advance for your assistance and hope you have a peaceful start to 2021.

Yours sincerely



Iain Kilpatrick  
Headmaster

### Summary of Start of Term Arrangements for Senior School Students

Date	Year Group(s)	Teaching Delivery
<b>6 to 8 January 2021</b>	Years 7 to 13	<b>All teaching online via OSL</b>
		Start of Mock exams delayed until week beginning 11 January
<b>W/b 11 January</b>	Years 7,8,9,10 & 12	Teaching online via OSL
	Years 11 & 13	Face-to-face teaching, Mock Exams start (online for those not able to be in school)
		Lateral Flow Testing of Years 11 & 13 (to be advised separately)
<b>W/b 18 January</b>	Years 7,8,9,10 & 12	Face-to-face teaching
	Years 11 & 13	Face-to-face teaching, Mock Exams continue
		Lateral Flow Testing of Years 7, 8, 9, 10 & 12 (to be advised separately)

**Please note:**

- Students who are unable to travel back to the UK due to prevailing travel restrictions should access all lessons through OSL. If they are in Years 11 & 13, alternative arrangements will be made for them to sit Mock Exams.
- The ability to conduct Lateral Flow Testing will be dependent on the number of tests that are allocated to the School. Priority will be given to those students in Years 11 & 13 and children of Critical Workers (see below).
- **Critical Workers:**  
The children of critical workers, as defined by the UK Government, will be able to access the school campus from Wednesday 6 January, if they have tested negative in a Lateral Flow Test. They will be supervised and access lessons via OSL until face-to-face teaching commences for their year group. Please register your child for this service by emailing [SpringTerm2021@sidcot.org.uk](mailto:SpringTerm2021@sidcot.org.uk) by 1.00pm on Tuesday 5 January.
- **Junior School:**  
In line with Government guidance, children in the Junior School will be taught face-to-face from 6 January 2021. Separate arrangements will be communicated to parents by Natalie Bone, Head of the Junior School.
- **The established protocols for those presenting COVID-19 symptoms should continue to be observed with students remaining at home and arranging for a standard (PCR) COVID-19 Test - irrespective of whether they have tested negative in a Lateral Flow Test.**