**18th December 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you may be aware, the Government announced yesterday that secondary schools in England will have a staggered return to school after Christmas, to help roll out the mass testing for secondary school children. I am writing to you now to confirm the arrangements we have in place for Jan 2021.

**Students in Years 11 / Children of Key Workers and vulnerable students**

As exam-year students, Year 11 should return to school on **Wednesday 6th January** as planned.

The children of key workers and vulnerable students may also return to school from **Wednesday 6th January**.

**Students in Years 7, 8, 9, 10**

Students in Years 7 to 10 will be asked to work remotely from home for the first week of term, following a virtual timetable, and returning to school on **Monday 11th January**.

Students will follow their usual timetable, with lessons being streamed live via *Microsoft Teams* - teachers will be available for questions throughout these timetabled lessons and students can complete and submit classwork/homework tasks which are set online.

**Access to equipment and technology**

Astrea is committed to ensuring every student has access to a laptop or suitable electronic device so that they can continue to receive a high quality of education. Should you need to borrow a device for this period please email Mr J Murphy (Assistant Principal) at [james.murphy@astreaernulf.org](mailto:james.murphy@astreaernulf.org) who will coordinate responses for our school.

As before, we ask that you only send your child into school if they are well. If they have any of the COVID symptoms (a high temperature; a new, continuous cough; loss of taste or smell) they should not come into school and you should arrange for them to be tested.

I appreciate this news has come very late and I want to assure you that we will do everything possible to continue to deliver a high standard of education to your child, and to keep disruption to a minimum. Our overriding priority is to ensure the safety of all students and staff.

We will be in touch again at the start of the new term with details on how we will roll out COVID-19 testing for our students.

Thank you again for your ongoing support to the academy, and we wish you a peaceful break over the holidays.

Yours sincerely,



Mr Bissoo, Principal