



30 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

The previous letter from the LEA detailed how all Stockport schools would be closing from the 18<sup>th</sup> December. I said in that communication that I would contact you again to confirm our return date and our remote learning provision. Mr P Wraith will have contacted you all separately to detail how we intend to provide learning for the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

In respect to our return date, I can now confirm that Bramhall High School will reopen on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January for all year groups. Our original return date of Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January will now be a staff INSET day and as such there will be no remote learning provision for that day.

Whilst any change to the published term dates are frustrating and inconvenient, the rescheduling is necessary for a number of reasons. Firstly, the original INSET day was scheduled for Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June which is now in the middle of the later GCSE exams. Therefore, the decision to move the INSET day had already been decided upon prior to the announcement by Stockport LEA. We have thought long and hard about where to place the rescheduled INSET day in order to minimise any disruption to learning, examination preparation, further mock examinations, options processes or any other activity we hope to offer once restrictions are lifted next year.

We have decided that the beginning of the Spring Term rather than the end, or even the start of the Summer Term, meets the criteria. It allows staff to undertake some key training as well as prepare resources ready for the new term. In addition, during this day students in Year 11 will be remotely receiving their mock examination grades. The students and their parents/carers will also be invited to attend a virtual interview with the senior leaders to discuss their progress. There will, of course be more information being released about this event shortly.

I do hope you are able to see the wider benefits of rescheduling the INSET to this date. I can only apologise for not informing you earlier but we were waiting to hear about any decisions in regards to school closure and opening dates from either the LEA or the Prime Minister. This occurred last week and it is unfortunate that our decision extends the Christmas break by one day. The 7<sup>th</sup> January reopening date brings Bramhall High in line with the other secondary schools in Stockport many of whom are not returning until the 11<sup>th</sup> January. Please also remember that this is the last INSET day to be scheduled for this academic year and all other holiday dates remain as stated.

To date we have had a very successful term with only a small proportion of positive cases causing disruption. This is in contrast to a large number of other Stockport secondary schools. I can only thank you for your continued support for our safety protocols during these difficult times.

Take care & stay safe

Mr P Williams

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