



**4th January 2021**

Dear Parents and Carers,

### **Return to School**

As you are aware, the government have announced that only vulnerable children and those of critical workers will return to school tomorrow Tuesday, 5th January. Please do not send your child tomorrow unless you have had a place confirmed by school. Staff permitting, students in Year 11 will return to school on Monday, 11 January. Provision for all students on the school site will recommence on Monday, 18 January. We will inform you as soon as possible should this change due to staffing pressures.

Students in Year 11 will be set work via class charts to complete tomorrow Tuesday, 5th January. They will commence online learning on Wednesday, 6th January.

Students in Year 9 and Year 10 are encouraged to utilise the Knowledge Organisers on the academy website tomorrow, Tuesday, 5th January and collect their electronic devices at the allotted time as detailed in text message forwarded earlier today. They will commence online learning on Wednesday, 6th January.

Students in Year 7 and Year 8 are encouraged to utilise the Knowledge Organisers on the academy website tomorrow, Tuesday, 5th January. Online learning will commence for those students with a device on Wednesday, 6th January. For those without a device, students should collect a work booklet from the academy on Wednesday, 6th January at the allotted time as detailed in the text message forwarded earlier today. We have submitted a request to the DfE for additional devices and will distribute them as soon as they arrive to enable all students to access online learning.

### **Online Learning**

All pupils will be issued with their online timetable tomorrow. A master copy will be available on the academy's website for reference. The full curriculum will be delivered according to their timetable. Vulnerable students and those of critical workers will be supervised to access online learning at school.

**Please note that it is an expectation that all pupils attend their online lessons. Should a pupil not log on at the appropriate time, a member of staff will contact you either by phone or by a home visit and this could result in an unauthorised absence.**



## Technical Help Desk

All pupils had intensive training on how to access online learning when we introduced the Blended Learning model. However, a team of technicians will be manning the academy phones each morning from Wednesday should any pupil or parent / carer need support logging into online learning. If you prefer, a dedicated email address has been established for any messages regarding remote learning:

[RemoteLearning@ssa.bfet.uk](mailto:RemoteLearning@ssa.bfet.uk)

This is checked daily and a member of staff will get back to you as soon as possible.

In addition, live zoom meetings will be held at **9 a.m. and at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, 6th January** for any pupil or parent / carers to resolve any technical issues that may have been encountered during the first week of blended learning. The link to join these meetings will be available on the academy's website tomorrow.

Pupil and parent/carer guides are available on the academy's website. You will find the Home Learning section in the drop-down box under Life at School.

## Online Safety

### Safeguarding Contact number: 07719550050

The safety of our pupils is of paramount importance to us. Pupils have had extensive training on how to keep safe whilst online. Our Internet Safety Guide and video are available for parental use to reinforce our messages in the Home Learning section on our academy's website.

Pupils and parents/ carers are encouraged to report immediately, using the safeguarding contact number above, any concerns they may have regarding online safety or any other child protection issues.

## Uniform

When in school, pupils are expected to wear their full uniform.

Pupils **DO NOT** need to wear their uniform when learning online at home, but they must be dressed in appropriate clothing.

## Free School Meals

Pupils entitled to free school meals will receive a voucher and will be distributed as soon as they arrive. All pupils attending on site, irrespective of whether they are entitled, will receive a free school meal.

## Lateral Flow Testing

In an attempt to halt the spread of the virus, the government has mandated that secondary schools need to establish a testing programme of asymptomatic pupils prior to their return. As you can appreciate, this is a mammoth task that will require significant planning, training and resourcing. We will be forwarding information regarding this as soon as we are in position to do so.



**South Shore Academy**  
BRIGHT FUTURES EDUCATIONAL TRUST



Please do not hesitate to contact the academy if you have any queries or concerns and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'Ruth Coupe'.

Mrs Ruth Coupe

Executive Principal

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'Mr Neil Reynolds'.

Mr Neil Reynolds

Headteacher