

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Start of Spring Term, January 2021

We have put together a list of frequently asked questions to help parents and students through new arrangements at the start of this term. If you have any queries that aren't addressed here then please contact us at p.midworth@dlc.dorset.sch.uk and I will do my best to get back to you as soon as possible.

Please note this information is accurate as of Monday 4th January 2021 but is subject to change based on updated guidance. If it does change, we will get back in touch by email.

Reopening Schools in January 2021

Why have changes been made to the start of term in January 2021?

To suppress transmission of the COVID-19 virus and to help roll out mass testing in schools, schools are providing remote learning at the start of this term to most students.

When is school re-opening to all students?

The government have closed all schools until February half term at least, with learning becoming remote for the majority of students however DLC will be open for vulnerable and key worker students.

My child is entitled to Free School Meals (FSM). Will the school be continuing to provide them?

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) the school will be sending you a voucher for each week we are closed, in the normal way. Please email p.midworth@dlc.dorset.sch.uk if you have queries about vouchers, or are worried in any way about having enough food for your children at this time.

What if I am concerned about the safety of a child at the school?

Lockdown can put pressure on children and families. If you have a concern about the safety or wellbeing of a DLC student being stuck at home and would like to alert us to this, please email p.midworth@dlc.dorset.sch.uk or call Jayne Lewis on 01305 261213.

Students can contact help@dlc.dorset.sch.uk if they have concerns.

School for vulnerable children and critical workers

I've heard DLC stays open for some students during lockdowns, how will this work?

We will still be open for vulnerable and key worker students. Students will follow timetables as per information emailed tomorrow. Our COVID-19 Secure measures will remain in place.

Vulnerable children and critical workers

Who are "vulnerable" children?

"Vulnerable" is a broad term that refers to a range of possible factors. If a family has ever received support from Social Services or Early Help, for example, they would be considered vulnerable. Students with special educational needs, or others who have difficulty working at home, may also be considered vulnerable. Any student in this category is eligible to attend DLC and we will be in touch directly with parents about this. Parents can contact us about it too, via the email addresses below:

j.lewis@dlc.dorset.sch.uk or p.midworth@dlc.dorset.sch.uk

Who are critical workers?

Critical workers are defined [here](#). Broadly speaking, they are workers who are essential in the national response to Covid (e.g. NHS staff or those working in the Emergency Services).

I am a critical worker. Do I have to send my child to school?

You can send your child to school but this is again optional.

Exams

Are GCSE and A Level exams still running this summer?

No GCSE and A Level Exams are not running this Summer, please see information in the main letter.

Mass Testing

Is Mass Testing still going to happen?

The Government announced that they will be introducing mass “lateral flow testing” for students and staff in secondary schools from January 2021 as per our information yesterday. This will continue with those students and staff who are attending school.

When will the school start this testing?

Testing will happen tomorrow for secondary age students as per previous information.

Do I have to consent to my child taking part?

For students in Year 7-11, yes. These tests are optional but you are strongly encouraged to take part. They will help identify students who are asymptomatic who will then need to self-isolate. Please can students remember to bring back their consent forms.

What if my child doesn't want to do it?

You are strongly encouraged to discuss this with your child and take part in testing. If you do not give consent, then your child will not be tested and could be sent home if they are identified as a close contact of a student and they will need to isolate as per the Government guidelines.

Home Learning

How will my child continue to learn at home?

Students in all year groups will have the opportunity to complete learning at home through remote learning (Microsoft Teams/Seesaw) or through a pack of work sent in the post. There will be a timetable sent via Microsoft teams as per previous information, if you wish to understand more about this process please contact d.dinsmore@dlc.dorset.sch.uk or contact the office and ask to speak to the deputy headteacher.

How much work should students do?

Students should try to complete as much work as possible without this causing added anxiety at home. This is a fine balance and one that will need careful management, DLC is here to support with this and please do contact us.

Where is home learning provided?

Online lessons for all year groups can be accessed through Microsoft Teams (secondary students) and SeeSaw (primary students). Students should log on to their usual DLC account. Once on-line, students should visit the subjects they have that day and complete the lessons according to the timetable. Most Year 7-11 lessons will be presented as a video lesson to watch. Students may also have to open separate documents to complete independent tasks. When work has to be handed in, students should upload it through Microsoft Teams.

Please see attached help sheet for Microsoft Teams.

What extra work can students do from home?

In addition to the regular work provided by their teachers or video lessons, students can access many more online learning platforms such as mymaths activities. They should ensure they use these platforms effectively so that they get the most from this period. In addition, teachers may well have provided other learning materials such as exam packs or independent revision materials. More details can be found on the DLC website.

If I don't have a computer at home, how can I help my child continue their learning?

We have a limited number of laptops and WIFI routers, please do contact David Dinsmore if this would be of help to you.

What if I need more information?

Our website has a lot of useful information for parents about our response to Covid-19. You can also email the office on office@dlc.dorset.sch.uk