



6 January 2021

Dear families,

Firstly, I would like to wish you a very happy new year. I hope that you are well and that you were able to have an enjoyable Christmas break even with the restrictions we find ourselves under.

As you will all know by now through communication from your school, the Government announced a new national lockdown to begin on Tuesday 5 January. This included closing all schools. We know this is a less than ideal situation to find ourselves in again, but it is necessary to help to bring the number of COVID-19 cases under control.

#### **What does this mean for my child?**

- At the moment **school closures are expected to last until after February half term.**
- **During this period, your child will learn online**, following their school's comprehensive learning plan. Your school will contact you to let you know what your child needs to do to access this.
- **Schools are open for children of key workers and vulnerable children.** If your child is eligible to attend face-to-face teaching, please contact your school to register for a place.
  - **Secondary students attending school will be offered a COVID-19 test in line with the Government's National Testing Programme.** This will mean a test as soon as we have our testing procedures in place and another test 3 days later. After this, students will only be tested if they are in contact with anyone who has COVID-19 symptoms.
- **If your child is eligible for free school meals**, your school will be in touch to send you a supermarket voucher to support you and your family during the lockdown period. Children who are attending school for face-to-face teaching will receive a free meal.

**You can stay up to date on the daily status of your school by visiting the Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust website:** <https://www.shirelandcat.org.uk/covid-19-information/school-status/>. Here you can also find information on our full approach to COVID-19, how to help reduce transmission and what to do if your child has symptoms of COVID-19.

It has not been an easy few days but we are incredibly proud of the way our staff and students have adapted to these challenges once again. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us if you have any questions. We are always here to help and support you.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Mark Grundy  
CEO of Shireland Collegiate Academy Trust

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