

# WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

Friday 18 December 2020

**IMPORTANT**  
**KEY MESSAGES IN LIGHT OF TIER THREE & STAGGERED START TO SPRING TERM**  
**ACTION REQUIRED**

Dear Parent and Carers

You may have been shocked when it was announced that Bedfordshire was amongst the areas being placed in Tier 3 from Saturday 19 December. The numbers of cases of the virus have increased very dramatically in Luton, Milton Keynes and in Bedford Borough. We know that the age range of the population where the greatest incidence of the virus is found is now secondary school aged children. It is so important that everybody continues to follow the rules if we are to save lives.



**STAGGERED START TO SPRING TERM 2021**

**Yesterday, it was announced also that secondary schools will have a phased start to the Spring Term.** This came as a major surprise to all Trusts and also schools and academies.

At the moment we know that in the first week of the Spring Term, i.e. **from Monday 4 January until Friday 8 January only Year 11 and Year 13 learners should be back in school and college for “face-to-face” learning.** We expect that almost all young people in Year 9,10 and 12 will work at home during this week. If your child is vulnerable or you feel there is a significant reason why your child should attend school in this week, please read the information entitled URGENT ACTION REQUIRED.

The guidance indicates that vocational exams scheduled for the week of 4 January will go ahead as planned. We are awaiting further information and will communicate with those Year 12 learners affected as soon as we can.

Wootton Academy Trust operates  
Wootton Upper School & Arts College  
Kimberley 16-19 STEM College

Registered in England and Wales  
Company No. 7740758

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More information about what our blended learning offer will look like will follow in a second letter later.

## URGENT ACTION REQUIRED

In the absence of further DfE guidance being available at the moment and in light of today being the last day of term, we are asking you to let us know **URGENTLY** if you would like to **request** a place in our provision for pupils in Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 that week.

The Trust will make available 20 places in total in this emergency provision should it be required. Pupils offered places in this emergency provision will be allocated a work station to complete the same tasks other pupils will complete at home; they will be supervised by a member of staff, but NOT their usual teacher.

Requests for places in this provision should be submitted **ONLY** where it is essential given the vulnerabilities of your child.

If it is essential you request a place in the Year 9 and Year 10 provision that week at Wootton Upper School, or the Year 12 provision at Kimberley College please complete the survey returning it NOT later than by **2:00 pm** on Saturday **19 December**. The Trust will NOT be able to consider any requests received after 2:00pm tomorrow.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=zLYaDWJ-Oi553zSzHpNdcfJwitEoEJPPxahPHz3N1ZUNU05VU9WMjI0SkJLM1BKTU9WNUszRzk0US4u>

All requests received by 2:00pm tomorrow, will be considered and we will let you know not later than **5:00pm on Monday 21 December** whether or not, we have been able to allocate a place for your child. If your child has not been allocated a place, this will give you almost two weeks to make alternative arrangements for them.

During the first week of January 2021, we are *informed* that staff in schools and colleges will receive training to enable them to offer rapid testing to learners and to staff so that more of them can stay in school and fewer self-isolate. **We have to assume that over the course of next week it will become clearer just what this means.**

We anticipate that further letters may follow over the Christmas holiday period if the situation changes. Please keep an eye open for any new communication. In the meantime, please follow the guidance and rules issued by government and the local authority to keep yourselves and your families as safe as possible and to protect the NHS.

Yours sincerely



Michael Gleeson  
Executive Principal

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HM Government


## CORONAVIRUS TIER 3

# VERY HIGH ALERT

[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**Around 1 in 3 people with Covid-19 have no symptoms** so will be spreading the virus without realising. We must all take action to protect each other and our hospital capacity.

<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>MEETING FRIENDS AND FAMILY</b></span>  </div> <p>No mixing of households indoors, or most outdoor places, apart from support bubbles. Maximum of six in some outdoor public spaces (e.g. parks, public gardens).</p>	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS</b></span>  </div> <p>Hospitality is closed, with the exception of sales by takeaway, drive-through or delivery.</p>	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>RETAIL</b></span>  </div> <p>Open.</p>	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>WORK AND BUSINESS</b></span>  </div> <p>Everyone who can work from home should do so.</p>
<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>EDUCATION</b></span>  </div> <p>Early years settings, schools, colleges and universities open. Childcare, other supervised activities for children, and childcare bubbles permitted.</p>	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>INDOOR LEISURE</b></span>  </div> <p>Open. Group activities and classes should not take place.</p>	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>ACCOMMODATION</b></span>  </div> <p>Closed (with limited exceptions)</p>	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>PERSONAL CARE</b></span>  </div> <p>Open.</p>
<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>OVERNIGHT STAYS</b></span>  </div> <p>We advise against overnight stays other than with household or support bubble.</p>	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS</b></span>  </div> <p>15 guests for weddings, civil partnerships and wakes; 30 for funerals. Wedding receptions not permitted.</p>	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>ENTERTAINMENT</b></span>  </div> <p>Indoor venues closed.</p>	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>PLACES OF WORSHIP</b></span>  </div> <p>Open, but cannot interact with anyone outside household or support bubble.</p>
<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>TRAVELLING</b></span>  </div> <p>Avoid travelling outside your area, other than where necessary such as for work or education. Further exemptions apply. Reduce the number of journeys where possible. Plan ahead and avoid busy times and routes on public transport. Avoid car sharing with those outside of your household or support bubble.</p>	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>EXERCISE</b></span>  </div> <p>Classes and organised adult sport can take place outdoors, but people should avoid higher-risk contact activity. Group exercise activities and sports indoors should not take place, unless with your household or bubble. Organised activities for elite athletes, under-18s and disabled people can continue.</p>	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>RESIDENTIAL CARE</b></span>  </div> <p>COVID-secure arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, and window visits. Outdoor/airtight visits only (rollout of rapid testing will enable indoor visits including contact).</p>	<div style="background-color: #e91e63; color: white; padding: 5px; display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <span><b>LARGE EVENTS</b></span>  </div> <p>Events should not take place. Drive-in events permitted.</p>

For support and more information visit:  
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