



Further clarification regarding school opening letter

5 January 2021

Dear parent/carer.

“Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise

Victor Hugo

Les Misérables

Re: Coronavirus update – National lockdown from Wednesday 6 January 2021

I again apologise for the barrage of emails you must be receiving. I sincerely hope that I will soon be able to avoid contacting you more than once per day. I would like to clarify some revised arrangements for lateral flow device testing, some other ways in which the School can offer support to families and the finer detail of the Lockdown as it affects young people.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing

The closure of schools to most students will clearly mean a delay to the roll out of LFD testing for most students. However, we will be offering LFD tests to any members of staff and students who are attending school over the next few weeks. The tests are voluntary but we do recommend that if your child is coming into school that you consider consenting to them being tested as this will provide another defence against the spread of the virus. Consent should be given using [this online form](#). My thanks to the many families who have already signed up for testing.

Other sources of support

We aim to continue to support our students in whatever way we can:

- we are continuing to provide Chromebooks and/or dongles for pupils without computer access – please email office@chartereastdulwich.org.uk using the subject line “Internet access” if your circumstances have changed and your child now needs a loan device in order to access their lessons at home
- vouchers for pupils in receipt of Free School Meals will be provided during the period of the national lockdown. Our finance team will continue to share information about how and when these will be delivered to those families who qualify. Again, if you feel that your

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circumstances have changed and you now may qualify for free school meals please email finance@chartereastdulwich.org.uk

- The school's counselling team will also continue to operate during Lockdown. Students with regular counselling appointments will be contacted directly in order to reschedule those appointments. If you feel that your child needs counselling support, please contact office@chartereastdulwich.org.uk using the subject line "Counselling".

Public restrictions on young people

Finally, please note that between the hours of 8.30am and 3.30pm all school-aged children and young people are legally still in education and Police will be carrying out truancy patrols. Any pupil found out in public during these hours without a reasonable excuse will still be treated as a truant as per normal and taken home by the Police. I fully appreciate how important it is for young people to socialise with their peers, but this is a public emergency and we have to expect more vigorous enforcement action than we have seen to date.

The full national lockdown guidance can be found [here](#) and we would recommend that you discuss the restrictions with your children and emphasise how important it is to adhere to the rules so that we can all play our part in controlling the rapid spread of the virus.

The National Lockdown is due to run until the February half term (w/c 15 February) and the next five weeks will once again present a challenge to all of us, no matter what our individual situations. Please be assured that we will be doing absolutely everything within our power to ensure that your children continue to receive a high-quality education even if we are not able to be with them in person.

I will be communicating regularly with you over the coming days and weeks, but for the moment, if you have any questions please do get in touch.

Thank you and kind regards.

Mr. A. Crossman
Headteacher
