



CASTLE SCHOOL  
CAMBRIDGE

Headteacher: Chris Baker

Deputy Headteacher: Anne Haberfield

DfES No: 873 7026  
My Ref:  
Date:  
Tel No: 01223 442400  
Email: [office@castle.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@castle.cambs.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.castleschool.info](http://www.castleschool.info)  
Charity No: 1139105  
Address Courtney Way  
Cambridge CB4 2EE

1<sup>st</sup> January 2021

**Additional Closure day**

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you have all had a good festive season. I am sorry to be starting the term with a negative but sadly we will not be opening until Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January for pupils.

Following the announcement from the Government with regarding testing in schools, we wanted to update you on our position. We will need an additional training day on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January to train staff to deliver this testing and for staff to have opportunity to be tested prior to reopening. As you will be aware, mainstream schools will have the week to get this up and running.

The latest guidance from the DfE states that the opening of special schools is encouraged from the 4<sup>th</sup> January and then expected from the 11<sup>th</sup> January. However, the guidance states that, *"Special schools and colleges have some flexibility on face-to-face attendance of pupils and students in the first week of term to enable them to appropriately mobilise the testing programme."*

Therefore, our opening plan is as follows:

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January – **School will be closed to pupils.** Training day for school staff as previously planned.
- Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January - **School will be closed to pupils.** Additional school staff training day suggested by DfE for Covid-19 testing training.

On Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January all pupils may return and we will be introducing a system of testing Secondary pupils in the near future. Pupils that are clinically extremely vulnerable are advised not to return to school.



We appreciate that the news reports in the last few days have been concerning, but we want to reassure you that the stringent measures that we put in place to keep our children and staff as safe as possible last term will continue. If anything changes we will do our best to communicate with you effectively.

We also want to remind you that if your child or anyone in your household develops symptoms, please do not attend school, and continue to follow the Government's self-isolation guidelines. For more information, please visit:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-and-treatment/when-to-self-isolate-and-what-to-do/>

We look forward to seeing you all again next week.

Kind regards,

CDA

Chris Baker

