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**THE MILTON
KEYNES ACADEMY**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

06 January 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Updated Changes to the start of term at MKA

In line with government announcements yesterday, we have further updated our start of term arrangements.

As anticipated, the national and local landscape related to Covid-19 is everchanging. As you may be aware, yesterday, the Prime Minister outlined a new national lockdown to prevent the further transmission of Covid-19 cases. We know that the new variant of the virus has spread rapidly, and we all need to play our part in reducing the number of new cases. Therefore, our plans have been updated to ensure the safety of all our students and staff.

The majority of our students will continue with remote learning until at least February half term. At the time of writing, students are due to return to school on Monday 22 February 2021. Any questions relating to remote learning should be directed to Sarfraz Akram, Assistant Principal for KS4 with responsibility for Remote Learning on Sarfraz.Akram@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk. Of course, we will keep you updated as and when we get further information.

The school will remain open for vulnerable children and those of key workers. If you have any questions relating to this then please email Sarah Dorrian, Assistant Principal for KS3 on Sarah.Dorrian@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk. Families on Free School Meals will receive support. We expect to have details on this in the near future.

We are working hard to introduce Covid-19 testing for any students and staff attending school. Our approach will be measured. As such, we will communicate with you to ensure that we have your consent prior to commencing any testing. In the meantime, please continue to notify us if your child test positive for Covid-19 or is required to self-isolate using our dedicated email address:

Covidalert@miltonkeynesacademy.org.uk



As you will be aware the Government have now decided that GCSE and A level examinations will not take place this summer in the normal way. In the coming days we will get further details of what will replace them. The key message for students is keep working and revising. Once we have a clearer picture relating to assessments, we will update you. We are also writing to Year 11 and Year 13 directly with further details.

The January BTEC exams for Years 11, 12 and 13 will go ahead as planned for those students who wish to attend, but they are no longer mandatory. We have been advised by the awarding body (Pearson) that they will: *award a grade for any learner who is unable to take their exams and has enough evidence to receive a certificate that they need for progression.*

If you or your child have any concerns related to the BTEC examinations, do not hesitate to get in touch with your Head of Year.

Staff at the MKA have worked tirelessly over the last months to ensure that our young people can continue to learn and make progress. We cannot do this without you and are grateful of your ongoing support as we navigate our way through this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Seddon'.

Fiona Seddon
Principal