

5 January 2021



Dear all,

After spending yesterday planning the start of our term and communicating to you all about those plans, I am sure you appreciate the Prime Minister's announcement of a national lockdown has had significant impact. The national picture is exceptionally grave.

Although the headline is that special schools remain open, there is still much debate about how that impacts a secondary special school, as the transmission rate amongst secondary age children is exceptionally high. I await further guidance from the DFE on this, which I hope to receive this evening or tomorrow.

As parents you will have a view of whether you want your child attending school or college during this national lockdown. I know many of you have already made the decision you do not want your child returning during this time. I do feel we need to be able to communicate with each of you to ensure that we have the right plans in place, ensure the blended learning offer is sufficient to sustain us until February half term, and review staffing levels for safety.

Therefore I am closing school and college on 6<sup>th</sup> January to all students. This will allow all staff to prepare school, contact you to discuss your wishes, ensure you have sufficient access to laptops and home learning packs where required, review staffing levels and plan the blended learning programme appropriately. School and College will open from 7<sup>th</sup> January, for those parents who want a place up to February half term.

If you are able to email your child's form tutor before tomorrow, whether you do or don't want a place up to February half term, this would be very much appreciated. It will allow us more time to plan the resources children will need over this time – irrespective of where they are accessing their education.

I hope each and everyone of you are safe and well, and we look forward to working with you over this half term, whatever your decision will be. If you require please follow the link for a you tube update: <https://youtu.be/XBQ0Ckda8NY>

Please do not hesitate contact us if you have any queries,

Kind Regards,

Orienne Langley Sadler  
Headteacher



Ripon Avenue, Whitefield, Manchester M45 8PJ



0161 766 1597



enquiries@elmsbank.co.uk



www.elmsbank.co.uk

Headteacher: Orienne Langley-Sadler