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Date: Monday 4th January 2021

Dear parents/carers,

As I am sure you are aware, the Prime Minister has this evening announced a further lockdown in England and, regrettably, the closure of all schools from tomorrow (Tuesday 5 January) until February Half Term, except to vulnerable children and those of critical workers.

As we were already expecting to provide remote learning for the first part of the term, your child should be aware of the arrangements for accessing their education online. However, should you need more information about accessing Microsoft Teams, or to borrow a device, please do not hesitate to contact onlinesupport@arena-birmingham.academy

We have worked hard to refine our remote learning offer, based on our experience of the first lockdown and over the past term, and your child's education will be as close to in-person learning as possible. Students will register at the same time and have form time at 8:30am for Years 7/8 and 9:00am for Years 9/10/11. All lessons will be delivered live and teachers will be available throughout the lesson to respond to questions. An online learning timetable and guide on how to use Microsoft Teams were given to your child on the last day of the term before the holidays. You can also view the guide and online learning timetable by following this link: [***January 2021 Return*** \(arena-birmingham.academy\)](#)

I appreciate this is an anxious time for all families and particularly those expecting to take exams in the summer. In his address, the Prime Minister said that not all exams would go ahead, and that the Department for Education would work with the exams regulator, Ofqual, to make alternative arrangements. While we do not yet know what these arrangements will include, please be assured that – as was the case last year - we will work tirelessly to make sure Arena Academy students are as well supported as possible.

I understand the disruption and stress this will cause and would like to take this opportunity to thank you, once again, for your support over the coming difficult weeks. Naturally, we will be in touch when further information becomes available.

Kind regards,

Headteacher