

E-Newsletter – 10th December 2020

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1) Information Corner

Christmas at St Augustine's

Because of the Covid restrictions Christmas at St Augustine's is different this year:

On Sunday 20th December at 4 pm there will be a socially distanced community carol service in the grounds to the south of the church. Half an hour of favourite carols to sing and traditional readings to hear - bring a torch and wrap up warm.

Christmas Eve sees not our usual crib services but instead the church will be open from 2 to 6 pm for families to come and see the crib and light a candle; at 11:30 pm there will be a Midnight Mass on a first come first served basis to preserve social distancing.

Christmas morning at 8 am has a traditional language Holy Communion, and then at 10 am there will be a Family Eucharist - bring a present to be blessed.

Jonathan Collis
Vicar of St Augustine's Thorpe Bay

Thank you for your support - A Message from The Thorpe Bay and Shoeburyness Community

A massive thank you to our community for their incredibly kind and generous donations on Saturday (5th) and to Thorpe Bay Methodist Church for hosting us. Members of local churches including St. Augustine's, St George's, Thorpe Bay & United Methodist churches, members of the Burges Estate Residents' Association, parents from local schools, individuals and families came together to provide Christmas food, festive wrapping, clothing, books, toys and gifts. Spreading kindness to others in need.

We were able to make six hampers which we are distributing to residential homes and sheltered housing across Thorpe Bay and Shoeburyness. One of our first deliveries this morning (8th) was to the residents and staff at Delaware House on Maplin Way.

Toys, chocolates, sweets and beautifully crafted home-made cards were delivered to Goldings Estate Agents who are collecting for the Salvation Army Shoeburyness and Turning Tides (a community project supporting isolated, older residents in our borough).

We drove two cars full of food, toys, festive clothing and games to St Vincent's Southend - Short Street who, through their support hub, will be providing gifts and Christmas hampers to families in need as well as supporting the Kindness Kitchens Southend (a union of incredible charities who provide food and clothing for the homeless and vulnerable).

More festive donations were made to Aspirations - a local organisation who are providing a safe haven for women on Christmas day.

Welcome to the UK collected gifts for young children supported by their project. Many are living in hostels in our town and these presents will bring joy to these families at Christmas.

Lastly, we were delighted to be able to support a special needs unit at a local school with covid-friendly donations of pre-loved toys and books for their children to enjoy.

We thank you all for the joy that your donations will bring to so many across our town and wish everyone in our community a merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and brighter new year.

Seagulls

We have been contacted by a member who has had to have the mess that the seagulls have made cleaned from his walls, windows, atrium and car recently which has cost him a small fortune.

May we kindly ask that you do not feed the seagulls as they are classed as vermin and the mess that they leave for people to clean up is unhealthy and costly. Once you start to feed one, then many many more come and they can start to become vicious and a nuisance to your neighbours.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds has warned that members of the public should not feed seagulls as it risks fuelling attacks and if they are just being feed a diet of bread, then it poses a risk to their health. So please be kind to both the gulls and our neighbours and do not feed them.

Cycling on the pavement

We have been advised by a resident that a member of the public was cycling on the pavement, who was unable to avoid her and rode into her. This resulted in her being badly hurt with a possible prosecution of the cyclist. Please can we stress that riding on the pavements is dangerous for pedestrians and cyclist which can result in serious injury and cyclists can be prosecuted for this, as it is an offence. Please go to www.cyclelaw.co.uk for more information.

Possible Scam - Halifax

We have been contacted by a member who received a text message from the Halifax and the member has advised us that this is a scam. (note the incorrect use of language). Please see the text message below:

HALIFAX: An payment attempt has been made to MR S KHALIL on the 05/12. If this is not you, stop IMMEDIATELY at <https://hali-stop-payee.co.uk>

Essex Police Fraud Alert System – Residents Warned Of Fake BT Calls

Residents are warned to be alert to a spate of calls claiming to be BT outreach that result in a computer takeover by the criminals.

Essex Police are aware of reports by residents that have received a call claiming to be from BT and stating that there is either an issue with the broadband in the area, or that the residents' internet access is due to be cut off unless they follow the callers instructions. The criminals use this cover in order to request that the resident downloads a program that will allow them access to the computer—this will allow them to remotely control the computer, meaning they are able to change passwords and view banking information.

When dealing with companies over the phone remember to **Take Five**:

- **Stop** - Taking a moment to stop and think before parting with your money or information could keep you safe.
- **Challenge** - Could it be fake? It's ok to reject, refuse or ignore any requests. Only criminals will try to rush or panic you
- **Protect** - Contact your bank immediately if you think you've fallen for a scam and report it to Action Fraud

If you want to check whether the call is genuine, remember to call back after five minutes or, if possible, on a different phone. Always use a trusted number, and not a number provided by the caller. A number of reports have stated that the caller has provided another fake number designed to continue the scam.

If you believe criminals have accessed your computer, take it to a trusted computer expert and explain the situation. Then report to Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk

Further plea as COVID-19 positive cases rise in Southend-on-Sea

Positive COVID-19 cases and related hospital admissions are rising locally.

After seeing a fall in cases from a high of 180.8 per 100,000 on Thursday 19 November, down to 115.8 by Sunday 29 November, cases have started to rise again, with the rate at 176.4 per 100,000 as of Wednesday 9 December.

The rate in the over 60's is around 100 per 100,000, but hospital admissions in Southend-on-Sea, and across mid and south Essex are rising. As of 4 December, there were 203 COVID cases in south Essex hospitals, up from 145 the week before, and now on par with the number of hospitalisations at the start of the pandemic in April.

Director of public health, says: "Unfortunately our rates are going in the wrong direction.

Although our rate remains lower than some other areas locally and regionally, we are starting to see a worrying and rapid rise, and we expect to be above 200 per 100,000 by the end of the week, which would be the highest case rate we have seen locally.

The percentage of people testing positive has also risen slightly and hospitals across mid and south Essex are seeing a rise in COVID admissions, which is putting a strain on the local system at a time of year when it is already busy and challenging.

We must all remember that every positive case is a potential hospitalisation, and every hospitalisation could lead to the death of a loved one.

We must also remember that someone can carry and spread this disease without showing symptoms. We should therefore treat other people from outside our household as a potential positive case and social distance accordingly.

Please also do not mix indoors with anyone outside of your household or support bubble at this time and remember the rule of six outdoors. I cannot emphasise enough how important this is to prevent the virus spreading further."

2) Temporary Road Closures

Southchurch Avenue, Southend-On-Sea – Emergency as Repairs – 3rd December to 19th December 2020.

To facilitate emergency gas repairs; they have imposed a **PROHIBITION OF ENTRY** in Southchurch Avenue. Southend-on-Sea.

Whilst this notice is in operation, all vehicles will be prohibited from:

ENTERING SOUTHCHURCH AVENUE FROM ITS JUNCTION WITH QUEENSWAY ROUNDABOUT TO ITS JUNCTION WITH YORK ROAD.

These prohibitions or restrictions came into effect on **3rd December 2020**. This notice will remain in force for a period of 21 days or the duration of the works whichever is the earliest. **It is anticipated that the works will be completed by the 19th December 2020.**

Whilst this section of Southchurch Avenue is closed, an alternative route for traffic will be marked on site and resident's access will be maintained where possible.

Address	Ramuz Drive
Start End Works	07/12/2020 05/03/2021
Reference	AZ007-1000906937
Works Type	Major
L.A.Ref	104519
Traffic Management	Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely
Address	Great Eastern Avenue
Start End Works	12/10/2020 20/12/2020 (Change of date)
Reference	AZ007-1000973773
Works Type	Major
L.A.Ref	110105
Traffic Management	Multiway signals – delays likely
Address	Southchurch Avenue
Start End Works	21/10/2020 16/12/2020 (Change of date)
Reference	AZ007-1000974112
Works Type	Major
L.A.Ref	110132
Traffic Management	Road closure – delays likely (Change of T.M)
Address	Elderton Road
Start End Works	08/12/2020 14/12/2020
Reference	AZ703-1000977258
Works Type	Major
L.A.Ref	110458
Traffic Management	Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely
Address	Woodgrange Drive
Start End Works	25/09/2020 11/12/2020
Reference	KG027-SE-FTTH-PN133
Works Type	Major
L.A.Ref	112987
Traffic Management	Multiway signals – delays unlikely
Address	Independent Footpath Adjacent 381 to 419a Arterial Road
Start End Works	17/11/2020 30/01/2021 (Change of date)

Reference AZ007-1000875190
 Works Type Major
 L.A Ref 101628
 Traffic Management Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely

Address **Woodleigh Avenue**
 Start End Works 27/10/2020 **23/12/2020 (Change of date)**
 Reference AZ007-1000964751
 Works Type Major
 L.A Ref 109226
 Traffic Management Road closure – delays likely

Address **Wakering Road**
 Start End Works 26/10/2020 **23/12/2020 (Change of date)**
 Reference AZ007-1000964813
 Works Type Major
 L.A Ref 109229
 Traffic Management Road closure – delays likely

Address **Western Esplanade**
 Start End Works 02/04/2020 01/04/2022
 Reference JR001-TEMPDIST2825
 Works Type Major
 L.A Ref 106534
 Traffic Management Some carriageway incursion – delays unlikely

Address **Kilworth Avenue**
 Start End Works 19/11/2020 **15/12/2020 (Change of date)**
 Reference KG027-SE-FTTH-PN034-05
 Works Type Major
 L.A Ref 111935
 Traffic Management Give & take – delays possible

3) A127 Major Works (A127 & the Bell Junction)

A127 Bell Junction - 6th Dec to 11th Dec

There will be off-peak (09:00 to 15:00) northbound lane closures Sun-Fri on Holeythick Lane, and westbound off-peak (09:00 to 15:00) lane closures Mon-Fri on the A127 (at the Bell Junction), for new carriageway widening and footway works.

Narrow lane markings will be installed during the Sunday night-time (20:00 to 06:30) eastbound road closure from Tesco Roundabout to Cuckoo Corner.

There will be no left turn into Rochford Road for eastbound vehicles from Monday 7th Dec until the 21st Dec, whilst kerb line alterations work is being undertaken for the new eastbound left turn slip lane. Traffic will be diverted onto Cuckoo Corner Roundabout and Manners Way.

A127 Bell Junction - 12th Dec to 18th Dec

There will be off-peak (09:00 to 15:00) northbound lane closures Sat-Fri on Holeythick Lane, and westbound off-peak (09:00 to 15:00) lane closures Mon-Fri on the A127 (at the Bell Junction), for new carriageway widening and footway works.

A127 Essential Major Maintenance - 7th Dec to 11th Dec

Carriageway stabilisation works will be undertaken during night-time (20:00 to 06:30) westbound road closures, from Cuckoo Corner to Tesco Roundabout. Access to residences and businesses will be maintained.

Carriageway drainage gully repairs and installation works are continuing during night-time (20:00 to 06:30) westbound lane closures, from Bellhouse Lane to the Borough Boundary.

A127 Essential Major Maintenance - 14th Dec to 18th Dec

Carriageway stabilisation works will be undertaken during night-time (20:00 to 06:30) northbound road closures, from Priory Crescent to Cuckoo Corner. Access to residences and businesses will be maintained.

No further daytime closures and night-time closures planned until the start of the New Year.

Maya Close/Ness Road

The road safety scheme at this junction was originally earmarked for November 2020 but had to be delayed due to gas works. The scheme is being taken forward by the Council's Civil Engineering team and is currently with officers for review and assignment to a contractor. The scheme is scheduled to be implemented early in the New Year. As soon as a programme of works with start dates is confirmed with the contractor members will be informed of the details.

4) List of Applications Registered **Week Ending 4th December 2020**

Application Number: 20/02009/FUL

Officer: Scott Davison

Demolish existing beach hut and erect replacement beach hut

Beach Hut 167 Thorpe Esplanade Thorpe Bay

Ward: Thorpe

Date Valid: 25 November 2020

Application Number: 20/02049/FULH

Officer: Kara Elliott

Erect single storey side/rear infill extension

5 Kensington Road Southend-On-Sea Essex

Ward: Thorpe

Date Valid: 2 December 2020

Application Number: 20/02017/PA3COU

Officer: Robert Lilburn

Change of use from retail (Class A1) to Restaurant/Cafe (Class A3), alterations to existing shop front including installation of security shutter and access to rear bin storage and cycle storage (Prior Approval) (Part Retrospective)

Ward: Thorpe

Date Valid: 2 December 2020

199 Eastern Esplanade Southend-On-Sea Essex

Application Number: 20/02003/CLP

Ward: West Shoebury

Officer: Oliver Hart

Date Valid: 25 November 2020

Hip to gable roof extension, dormer to rear to form habitable accommodation in roofspace, single storey side extension, rooflights to front (Lawful Development Certificate-Proposed)

67 Thorpedene Gardens Shoeburyness Southend-On-Sea

Application Number: 20/02016/FUL

Ward: West Shoebury

Officer: Robert Lilburn

Date Valid: 26 November 2020

Change of use from dwelling (Class C3) to children's residential care home (Class C2)

90 Caulfield Road Shoeburyness Essex

Application Number: 20/02022/FUL

Ward: West Shoebury

Officer: Spyros Mouratidis

Date Valid: 27 November 2020

Change of use of rear part of ground floor (Class A1) and rear part of first floor (Class A2) to two self-contained flats (Classes C3), alter rear elevation and layout parking and cycle store to rear

Co-Operative Group Limited 105 - 107 West Road Shoeburyness

5) List of Decisions Issued **Week Ending 6th December 2020**

APPLN. NO: 20/01633/FULH

Ward. Southchurch

Officer: Julie Ramsey

ERECT PART SINGLE/PART TWO STOREY SIDE AND REAR EXTENSION, INSTALL PORCH AND CANOPY ROOF TO FRONT AND ALTER ELEVATIONS (AMENDED PROPOSAL)

123 BURLESCOOMBE ROAD THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/01663/FULH

Ward. Southchurch

Officer: Kara Elliott

ALTERATIONS TO FRONT ELEVATION COMPRISING OF FASCIA AND COLUMNS TO FRONT, INSTALL BALUSTRADE TO EXISTING FIRST FLOOR VERANDA WITH COVERED CANOPY AND COVERED STORAGE AREA TO SIDE

HARAN 92 WILLINGALE WAY THORPE BAY

Decision: Refuse Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/01701/FULH

Ward. Southchurch

Officer: Oliver Hart

ERECT SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AND FIRST FLOOR SIDE EXTENSION WITH EXTERNAL STAIRCASE

33 WILLINGALE WAY THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Refuse Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/01873/AEA

Ward. Southchurch

Officer: Oliver Hart

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION AND CHANGE USE OF GROUND FLOOR TO A LIVE-WORK UNIT (SUI GENERIS) APPLICATION FOR ADDITIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL APPROVAL FOR EXTENSION OF TIME TO PLANNING PERMISSION 17/00467/FUL DATED 23.06.2017

793 SOUTHCHURCH ROAD SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

Decision: AEA Refused

APPLN. NO: 20/01456/FULH

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Julie Ramsey

ERECT SINGLE STOREY REAR/SIDE EXTENSION

61 COLBERT AVENUE THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/01546/FUL

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Robert Lilburn

ALTER FRONT ELEVATION, INSTALL NEW SHOPFRONT

187 THE BROADWAY THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/01570/FULH

Ward. Thorpe

Officer: Julie Ramsey

DEMOLISH EXISTING SINGLE STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AND ERECT TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION WITH JULIETTE BALCONY TO REAR, ALTER ELEVATIONS

100 THORPE HALL AVENUE THORPE BAY ESSEX

Decision: Grant Conditional Permission

APPLN. NO: 20/01652/CLP

Ward. Thorpe

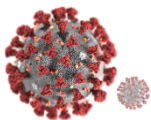
Officer: Kara Elliott

SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION (LAWFUL DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATE PROPOSED)

114 RUTLAND AVENUE SOUTHEND-ON-SEA ESSEX

Decision: Grant Lawful Dev Certificate (Proposed)

6) Coronavirus Information



Key updates/actions

New tier system: Southend-on-Sea has entered tier 2 restrictions, along with Essex, Thurrock and the East of England. Read more detail on the tier 2 restrictions on the GOV.UK website.

Council venues re-opening: A number of venues started to re-open from Wednesday 2 December. Read our media release.

Guidance for hospitality: Guidance has been issued for people who work in or run restaurants, pubs, bars, cafes or takeaways. Visit GOV.UK

Advice for clinically extremely vulnerable: The latest advice for the clinically extremely vulnerable is available on GOV.UK

Updated guidance has been produced for places of worship and carol singing: Guidance on places of worship. Guidance on carol singing.

Coronavirus case data: This is published on our website and now also includes the daily 7 day rate of positive cases per 100,000.

7-day rate of positive cases as of 3 December was 128.9 per 100,000 (up from 125.1 per 100,000 on 27 November, but down from 180.8 per 100,000 on 19 November). The rate in the 60 and over age bracket is 87.9. per 100,000, up from 79.1 on 27 November, but down from 96.7 per 100,000 on 19 November.

ONS death data: Southend-on-Sea residents' deaths registered inside and outside of Southend-on-Sea with any mention of COVID-19 on the death certificate that occurred up to 20 November 2020 but were registered up to 28 November 2020: 227 (+7)

Support for the local economy: A number of actions have been taken to support the local economy at this time. Free festive parking after 4pm on a Thursday and all day on a Sunday until Christmas has been extended across the Borough.

The Shop Local, Shop Southend-on-Sea campaign has also been relaunched ahead of Christmas, encouraging local people to shop local or use local online and click and collect services. A campaign image is attached.

Small businesses across Southend-on-Sea are also being encouraged to get involved in the 'best festive business' competition, which could win them a free promotional video worth £500. Businesses must submit a photo to @BusinessOnSea on Facebook via messenger or by emailing economicd@southend.gov.uk for a chance to win the prize.

National and local data: A link to the national NHS Digital information shows information by time intervals (for example, 3-days, 7-days, 30-days, etc), as well as the total numbers and requests or referrals to NHS 111.

Flu vaccination campaign still running: In partnership with the CCG and NHS, a campaign is running aimed at encouraging those over 65, or under 65 but with a long term health condition to take up their free flu jab via their GP. We are also setting straight facts about the vaccine and busting myths on social media as part of this work. You can test your own knowledge on flu vaccination facts by playing the CCG's Flu Bee game: <https://games.focusgames.co.uk/Flubeemessex/game/>

Other

- Members of the public who need to self-isolate, but are stuck and have no local support from friends and family can call the helpline on 01702 212497. A full list of support contact numbers is available on the corporate website

Out of hours:

Urgent issues arising out of hours should be reported to the out of hours service in accordance with standard practice. The phone number is 01702 215000.

The out of hours service will then contact the relevant Council officer who is on-call or the relevant contractor such as Veolia. They also have access to the town link radio and CCTV.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 3rd December 2020

DfE

- New guidance was published yesterday (2nd) on higher education student movements in December, the return of students from January, and NHS Test and Trace channels.
- New guidance is released today on what schools, colleges and students need to know about taking GCSEs, AS and A levels and other qualifications in summer 2021. It sets out measures agreed between the DfE and the Ofqual for the 2021 summer exam series to ensure they are safe and fair for all students.

DfT

- A series of measures are announced to minimise disruption and help people travel safely over the Christmas period. The plan for the Christmas travel window 23-27 December includes lifting roadworks, enhancing rail services, postponing and accelerating rail engineering works and cutting ticket charges. Passengers are urged to plan carefully, consider quieter routes and book ahead.
- The Department for Transport has also published social media materials which can be used to communicate safer transport messages locally.

MHCLG

- Guidance is updated to set out the restrictions on certain businesses and venues in England under the different local restriction tier levels. The guidance

explains the rules on business closures in England that came into effect on 2 December

- On Tuesday, guidance was updated for managing safer urban centres, green spaces, beaches, the countryside and coastal areas, in line with the local restriction tier system that came into force yesterday.
- Guidance for marriage or forming a civil partnership is updated, to align with the tier system.
- MHCLG has published a summary of the data collected from councils on the financial impact of coronavirus. It is designed to provide ongoing information on financial pressures councils are experiencing. Estimates to inform government's work to support councils.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 4th - 7th December 2020

The Prime Ministers Office has published:

A new fund that will improve medicine supply chains and create thousands of jobs.

FCDO has published:

New advice for people thinking about going abroad over the festive period.

DfT has published:

A new comprehensive plan to minimise disruption and help people travel safely during the Christmas travel window between 23 and 27 December.

DfE has published:

Updated guidance on claiming exceptional costs associated with coronavirus. This includes instructions for schools, academies, councils and multi-academy trusts on how to claim exceptional costs that were not claimed during the first window which closed on 21 July. The second window to claim exceptional costs is now open. Claims for exceptional costs incurred between March and the end of the summer term can be made through the online form. The deadline to submit a claim during the second claims window is 22 December. There will be no opportunity to request extensions to this claims window or to resubmit a claim after that date.

DHSC has published:

A new letter from the Minister for Care to local authorities, directors of adult social services and managers of care homes for older adults.

New information on how and why personal data may be used in the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme.

Updated guidance setting out additional powers for councils to enforce coronavirus regulations. These tools will enable councils to take targeted action against unsafe

premises and will help to avoid further sector-wide restrictions, thus keeping the majority of safe premises open. The new tools will consist of:

Coronavirus Improvement Notice (CIN)

Coronavirus Restrictions Notice (CRN)

Coronavirus Immediate Restrictions Notice (CIRN) The guidance also provides information on councils' powers of entry under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984. The Office for Product Safety and Standards has also issued detailed guidance directly to council's enforcement officers on how to use these new powers, alongside producing template notices.

PHE has published:

New information for all women of childbearing age, those currently pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding on COVID-19 vaccination.

DBEIS has published:

New guidance stating that senior executives can temporarily leave quarantine if they are undertaking business activities which are likely to be of significant economic benefit to the UK.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 8th December 2020

PHE

- NHS Announcement. Today marked the start of the roll out of the coronavirus vaccine. People aged 80 and over and care home workers will be first to receive the jab this week, along with NHS workers who are at higher risk.
- Promotional materials to download to support the coronavirus vaccination programme in care home and healthcare settings are published.
- In new guidance, information for eligible adults on COVID-19 vaccination is published. It explains about the COVID-19 vaccination, who is eligible and who needs to have the vaccine to protect them from Coronavirus.
- In new guidance, information for social care staff on COVID-19 vaccination is published.
- In new guidance, information for healthcare workers on COVID-19 vaccination is published.
- Guidance for people who have had their first COVID-19 vaccination is published.

DoHSC

- Tier 1 guidance, and Tier 2 guidance includes updated information on visiting venues and now includes links to guidance on which businesses and venues are permitted to be open.

Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy

- Working safely during coronavirus guidance is updated to clarify that workplace canteens open to staff only do not need to collect data for NHS Test and Trace, in Lab/research and construction/outdoor workplaces.
- In a press release, a report highlighting the work of the Vaccines Taskforce (VTF), six months after it was set up is published today. This interim report outlines the progress VTF has made to secure vaccines for the UK, the international work to develop and increase access to vaccines, and how it has built the UK's capability in vaccine development.

DfE

- In a press release, £4.4m is announced to extend the coronavirus response programmes run by major children's charities, and setting out plans to create a new National Centre for Family Hubs and Integrated Services, to support areas and councils set up new family hubs.
 - o £4.2m will go to a coalition of charities to continue the 'See, Hear, Respond' programme until March 2021, supporting vulnerable children below the threshold for statutory support and early help.
 - o £190k will be provided for the NSPCC's helpline.
- Guidance for parents and carers during the outbreak includes updated information on primary assessments and GCSE and A Level exams in summer 2021, Ofsted inspections and exams for selective schools.
- Guidance for local authorities, academy trusts and schools on devices and support available to provide remote education and access to children's social care includes updated information on how to get a grant and support to use a digital education platform.
- In a press release, children and young people from Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities will receive extra educational support.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 9th December 2020

New guidance has been published for councils on the operation and delivery of the **Christmas Support Payment** for wet-led pubs in areas under tier two or three restrictions.

MHCLG has announced that the business evictions ban has been extended until March 2021. The announcement also included a new piece of work to review the commercial landlord and tenant legislation.

A £4m **Local Connections Fund** has been launched to support community projects helping to reduce loneliness. Funding will be available to small charities and community groups.

The **ONS** have released data on the impact of COVID-19 on industries which have struggled or recovered, so far.

Summary of Covid-19 related Government announcements 10th December 2020

Downing Street:

Today's Covid-19 press briefing focused upon:

Covid-19 vaccination programme progress. The rollout will expand to 10 more locations, GP sites and care homes by Christmas. Most can expect to receive jabs early next year.

Data update - Essex is of particular concern, particularly in rising cases among younger school-aged people. The rate among adults is 'broadly flat'.

There is an immediate plan to community surge-test 11-18 year olds and families in parts of London, Essex and Kent, where cases are rising most. The health secretary urges this cohort to get tested as soon as possible, including asymptomatic individuals.

1800 projects are announced to upgrade and refurbish hospitals over winter.

DHSC has published:

NHS Test and Trace business plan to prevent transmission, protect health and enabling people to return to more normal way of life. The strategy includes increase speed and reach of test and tracing, working with local partnerships.

Updated guidance to testing, including who can be tested without symptoms and added inclusion of test sites are open 7 days a week

PHE has published:

Announcement on the weekly report on national flu and coronavirus surveillance. The report includes monitoring of COVID-19, seasonal flu and other seasonal respiratory illness rates.

MHCLG has published:

Updated guidance on renting to provide further information on communal lounges in specialist sheltered and retirement housing and on canteen in extra care housing.

Updated guidance on celebrating religious festivals

Materials have also been released to communicate safe behaviours during Hannukah celebrations which begins today (10th)

Announced launch of 'Changing Futures' scheme to support vulnerable people, £46m has been allocated to help adults facing disadvantages such as homelessness, domestic abuse and mental health issues. The prospectus sets out the aims and core principles of the program for local partnerships to be established to help vulnerable adults.

BEIS has published:

Updated guidance for Local Restriction Support Grants (LRSG) Version 2 applicable 2 Dec onwards to support councils administering LRSG for businesses that are still open but severely impacted by Tier 2 or Tier 3 restrictions

Updated guidance for working safely during the pandemic, including clarification that workplace canteens for staff do not need to collect NHS Test and Trace data, and betting shops to keep record for all staff and visitors.

Homes England has:

Announced it will simplify how it engages with developers and housebuilders to bring its land to market. The new approach will mean increased flexibility and more proportionate approach to ensuring partners ability to deliver homes on sites.

Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has published:

In a press release, new confirmation of guidance to vaccinations centres included managing allergic reactions following COVID-19 vaccination with Pfizer/BionTech vaccine. Anyone with a history of anaphylaxis to a vaccine, medicine or food should not receive the Pfizer/BioNTech Vaccine

DfT has published:

Updated guidance on who clarify for the temporary relaxation of the EU drivers hours rule for drivers carrying food and essential goods by road

Office of National Statistic has published:

Analysis of impact on the output of UK economy between September to October 2020

Publication of early experimental data on the impact on the UK economy and society, to including 77% of UK businesses are currently trading, with 14% of trading business' workforce on furlough leave

HM Courts and Tribunals Service:

Published statistical data on understanding the impact of workload volumes and timeliness at a national level

Webinar:

UK Travellers to Europe Webinar, FCDO is hosting a webinar at 9.45am on 16th December to cover new rules around travelling to Europe after the transition period.

- END -