

Thursday 21st May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers,

The Prime Minister has said that he hopes schools will begin to reopen from 1st June 2020. This, I know, will be welcome news for families in our school community. This period of lockdown has been challenging and stressful but now we are finally seeing some light ahead. As welcome as this is, it is vital that our schools proceed very carefully and seek to put the health and safety of our learners and staff first. In turn this will enable us to do our best to try to ensure families are safe. To achieve as safe an environment as possible, you will understand that our schools cannot operate as they did before lockdown. Hopefully, our schools can emerge incrementally and over time return to the structures and routines with which we are all familiar, but we cannot know when this might finally be accomplished, and safety must continue to be our first and paramount consideration. I know parents and carers will appreciate this position. We wish to thank all of you for your continuing support and understanding.

Our second objective is to ensure we provide the highest standard of education possible, being one that will help our learners make the greatest progress with a view to ensuring that none is disadvantaged by circumstances outside their control. Our school has spent a considerable amount of time analysing, considering and planning what learners will experience when they return to school.

From the survey sent to parents earlier in the week, it is clear that a number of both parents and students alike are feeling anxious about any form of return. I completely understand this and I hope the details in this letter surrounding safety allow you to feel assured that we will always do our utmost to keep your children safe. If you are yet to complete the survey, please follow this link in order to do so:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=LuLr9FO180SIVj4NhJCOuJ3I5BxLxw5A_CKKTPyHePBUODRSNEZSM1RaS0xUSEsyREFFNE44OEFNVS4u

This letter gives details of how we currently intend to provide schooling for our students in Year 10. **Please read the details carefully.**

Year 10 will return to school in Phases.

Phase One:

WC 1st June 2020 (week one) – Tutor check-in

All students who have indicated that they will be returning to school will be invited to a face-to-face meeting with their form tutor during the week commencing 1st June. The purpose of this meeting is for your child to discuss with their form tutor how they have been feeling and how they have been getting on with work. Your children have been away from school for a long time and it is important that we provide them with pastoral support. The form tutor will be able to then help your child overcome any barriers they may have had with work. **The appointments will be issued by Mr James via email and text over half term. Appointments will last for 20 minutes**



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WC 8th June and 15th June (week two and week three) – Subject check-in

We will run 10 'subject days' over the course of these two weeks. Students will have the opportunity to book 'one-to-one' sessions with subject teachers on these days. Bookings can be made on our website from Monday 25th May. During each session, a subject teacher will work with your child and be able to go through any misconceptions they have, discuss the recent mock exams and discuss all of the work that they can focus on over the next half term. This will be the ideal opportunity for your child to receive some extensive one-to-one feedback about each of their subjects.

Keeping Safe during Phase One

The trust requires schools to follow **procedures that ensures all are safe in every school environment** at all times during Phase One (1st June – 28th June 2020). As you will be aware this is an area of contention with schools caught up in the centre of a debate over scientific evidence of what is safe. This is a very challenging area for everyone, but especially so for families and staff.

Students will enter school via the double doors at the end of the dining room. This allows them to sit in a well ventilated space. Students will then sit in a space at a table 2 metres away from their tutor. On entering the building they will have been issued hand sanitiser to use. Upon leaving the appointment, the area in which they have sat will be cleaned in preparation for the next student to arrive.

Students may wish to wear a face mask or a similar face covering but, if they do, their families will need to provide this. We will not require our students to follow the school's uniform policy at this time. **We ask students to wear a top that is easily washable**, e.g. a T-shirt/Polo shirt. The government recommends that where there has been social contact with others, the person should wash their clothes and they should shower or take a bath on returning home. We ask everyone to support this guidance to keep everyone as safe as we possibly can.

If your child is **feeling unwell**, please **DO NOT SEND THEM TO SCHOOL**. We appreciate this can be a difficult assessment to make but, for the time being, we need, and we ask you, to act with caution and, if in doubt, please keep them away from school for the sake of the safety of their fellow students and the staff. If any student begins to present with symptoms that indicate they are unwell they will be sent to the school's medical room and parents/carers will be asked to collect them immediately. Our school will regularly take non-contact temperature checks on learners, especially any who appear to be unwell.

Getting to and from school is a critical area of concern for schools as the risk of social distancing rules being forgotten or ignored is greatly enhanced. Where a student walks to school we ask parents/carers to issue clear guidance regarding social distancing. We will not be able to allow parents/carers in to school during this time.

We are really lucky to have such responsible and sensible students at our school. We ask that every student act and behave in a socially responsible manner and we know that they will



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understand our expectations surrounding behaviour. As normal, we will contact parents/carers if we have concerns regarding any child's behaviour.

It is plain that what has been described in this letter does not conform to 'normal' schooling as we have all known it in the past. Nevertheless, we will do our very best to support your child's learning and ensure they receive the very best education possible. The school, as always, relies upon your active support during this difficult and challenging period.

Following the success of Phase One, we will move to Phase Two which will involve small group teaching in a class size no bigger than 15. I will outline details to you regarding Phase Two in a separate letter closer to the time.

If the Government announce any further changes to schooling provision during this time, I will let you know as soon as possible.

If you have any concerns or questions, please contact the school through our website or by phone/email.

Yours sincerely,

Emma Howard
Head of School