

5th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that you and your families are safe and well during this unusual period. It has been an anxious time for us all and I continue to be grateful for the tremendous efforts from you all for supporting the learning that has been taking place at home.

In recent days the Government has moved back its date for **Year 10s and Year 12s only** to start returning to school to **15th June 2020**. We have responded to this direction by recently collecting survey data from parents of students in these year groups so that we have an indication of how many students will start to come back.

The latest Government instruction is that **no more than a quarter (25%) of each year group should be allowed on site at any one time**. This means that selected students will be invited in on each day in an effort to ensure that this cap is not exceeded. If you have indicated that your child will not be returning at this stage then it will be assumed that they will not be in and we will not plan for them to be here. Similarly, if you change your mind and decide that you want them to return we ask that you give us sufficient notice so that we can re-plan our provision appropriately.

From the initial feedback from families we expect attendance to be limited for the first couple of weeks of our Year 10 and Year 12 offer but are planning for demand to increase over time.

Group	Activities
Year 10 (T Band only)	Mondays and Wednesdays each week (9.00 to 2.30)
Year 10 (J Band only)	Tuesdays and Thursdays each week (9.00 to 2.30)
Year 12	Monday to Thursday mornings only (9.30 to 12.30)

As demand for attendance increases we will begin to ask students to come in on alternate weeks so as to ensure that we work within the national instructions for schools and can maintain the social distancing protocols.

Children of Key Workers, those with EHCPs or classified as vulnerable will continue to be able to attend school daily for supervised time with teachers as has been the case throughout the period of school closures.

We understand that it is a very personal decision to send your child back to school and cannot stress enough that there is no penalty for choosing not to. We are instructed by the DfE to make regular phone calls home where parents do not take up the offer of a place to enquire the reasons for this.

Considerable changes have been made around our school site to support a limited return to school including the installation of a number of outside sinks to support hand washing on arrival to school. In addition to soap and hand gel available around the premises, we will be providing all students with their own personal soap to emphasise the importance of hand-washing and cleanliness. One-way systems have been put in place and signage has gone up around our site to remind everyone of the importance of social distancing. Classrooms have also been adjusted to ensure that social distancing rules are maintained.

For children in Years 7 to 9 it continues to seem likely that there will be no return to school until September 2020 at the earliest. No doubt this will be difficult news for many in our community who are keen to see their friends and teaching staff. In the interim we will continue our online education offer via the VLE and other resources that are forwarded home.

We fully recognise that this is a hugely unsettling time for everyone. Yet we have been impressed at how we have pulled together as a community and how resilient many of our students have been. So long as our students do their best then that is all that any of us can ask of them.

We are all hopeful that at the start of the next academic year we will be able to be together with students, but it is still too early to give clear guidance for September. Once we do have clear instruction from the Government we will be in touch with Term 1 arrangements so that you know what they will look like. In the meantime, we will continue to support your child in their academic and personal development. If there is anything further that we can do to support your family then please let us know.

Best wishes



Dr Rowland Speller
Headteacher



Mr Kevin Dickens
Head of School