

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Students

Update regarding our plans for a phased return to school for Y10s and Y12s from June 8th

We hope that you and your families are well, given the challenging period that everyone has been through in the last few weeks. Had we all been in school then today would have marked the start of the summer half-term break. With this in mind, we hope that students can take the opportunity for a break from their virtual learning for the next seven days! Equally, we also ask that our teaching staff step away from their computers for a week.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all students that have been working hard on the home learning. I would similarly like to extend our gratitude to parents that have been supporting home-schooling on top of everything else. We fully acknowledge that the last eight weeks have not been easy for anyone.

Teachers have been nothing short of impressive. They have been managing the competing demands of providing home-learning, grading Year 11 and 13 work, taking care of the welfare of our school community and preparing future learning with the utmost professionalism. We feel humbled to have such a hard-working and compassionate workforce.

We wish to update everyone in our community with the plans for increasing student numbers. From June 8th our plan is to begin offering some school-based education to current Year 10s and Year 12s. This will be on a very different timetable to that which our students were previously used to. *Details on this will be published shortly.*

We acknowledge that coming to school, if asked, is a very personal choice. There are some parents that will understandably be very worried and may take the decision to keep their son or daughter at home at present. You will not be fined for non-attendance, but we are being instructed by the Government to make *regular* phone-calls home where provision is offered but not being accepted.

You will find attached a presentation that I shared with Governors and staff recently and I would like to share with you. It describes in detail the plans we have to move forward with a safe learning environment whilst adhering to Government guidance. We have adapted many aspects around the school to make sure that we are ready to start accepting an increased number of students. We have introduced hand-washing protocols, changes to the curriculum, social distancing measures, expectations around the use of PPE and a whole number of other modifications. Things will no doubt change over time and, hopefully at some point in the future, we can return to a level of normality.

Parents of students in Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 will likely face the prospect of working from home for the remainder of the summer term. For those students in that group we recognise that it will be heart-breaking spending so much time away from school and their friends. Over the remaining weeks, before the end of the academic year, we will gradually be rolling out a limited on-line offer for our students via video-conferencing to ensure that our learners have some opportunity for face-to-face contact. To deliver this we will be using the Microsoft Teams platform, which all students

and staff have access to via their school email accounts. Not all students will initially be extended this offer since we are in the process of training our staff – in case of any future school closures.

We are sure that there will be several remaining questions in your minds. You will hopefully find many answers in the attached presentation. Nonetheless, these are unprecedented times and we will update you regularly as we have more information.

Best wishes and please stay safe

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Speller', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Rowland Speller
Headteacher

