

21 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware, the government has asked schools to begin to plan to open for more students from early June, specifically year 10 and 12 students in secondary schools. I am writing to give you some details of our planning.

We will, of course, continue to maintain our provision that we have offered since March to the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. These arrangements remain unchanged. We are already in contact with these parents.

My absolute priority moving forward is to ensure that we only open to more students if and when it is safe to do so. I am working with my team to carry out a robust risk assessment to inform my decision-making.

At this point, I would like to make it very clear that my expectation, in line government guidance, is that this will be phased with very small numbers in the academy at any one time. This will be for year 10 and 12 only for the summer term, alongside our critical worker and vulnerable children provision. All other year groups will continue with their online learning and will not be in school.

In order to ensure that I have an accurate overview of the number of students who are likely to return to school in June, it would help me if you would let me know if your intention is to send your child(ren) to school to access the limited provision that will be offered. This information will allow me to plan for safe staffing levels to support the children in the academy.

This will not be normal school provision and will be part-time and operate in line with social distancing measures, and in line with the government guidance. This provision will allow some face to face contact with students in year 10 and 12 to compliment their online learning to help progress their studies further during the summer term.

The link to the survey is <https://forms.gle/7MavmComU9t9mEc7>. It will also be sent to you by text but you only need to complete the survey **once** for each child. Please complete this survey by Wednesday 27th May.

Our Approach to Opening

1. From 1st June, we will contact students in year 10 to discuss arrangements for the face to face support they will receive prior to the summer break.
2. Year 12 students will receive contact through their Post 16 tutors week commencing 8 June at the earliest to discuss arrangements for the face to face support they will receive prior to the summer break.

3. Once these arrangements are made, the face to face contact will be initially to meet with a member of school staff for a short time, such as 1 or 2 hours.
 - a. This face to face support will be in very small groups;
 - b. There will be little opportunity for social mixing;
 - c. Additional hygiene, cleaning and social distancing measures will apply. Further details will be outlined on our website in due course;
 - d. There will be staggered start and end times;
 - e. This provision will focus on pastoral support, mental health and wellbeing, academic support and planning for any additional time that students may need in school.
4. My ambition is to increase this provision over time, but only if and when it is safe to do so, which will be informed by the risk assessment. Government strategy will also impact on my decision-making through its monitoring of the R rate. However, it is important to note that there will not be a return to full time provision this academic year.

Online Learning

The aim of the face to face support is to supplement online learning. Online learning will be the main focus for students' study for the remainder of the academic year. We will continue to seek to strengthen this online provision, supported by our face to face arrangements and interventions.

In these unprecedented times, where we have all had to learn and work in different ways, I would like to thank you for your amazing support with your child's online learning and for the encouragement you have given your child to continue to learn online. Please continue to do this. It makes a great difference.

I am very much looking forward to seeing the children back in the building, albeit in a very limited and different way. We will all be working in a different, socially-distanced way and we appreciate your support in reinforcing with your child the importance of social distancing, good respiratory hygiene and hand-washing.

In the meantime, I would ask you to wait for your phone call to confirm your child's arrangements for the face to face support they will receive. If you have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch via the 'Contact Us' section of the website.

Yours faithfully



Andy Scruby
Principal