



19th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that this letter finds you and your families as well as possible.

You will be aware of the Prime Minister's recent announcement and the government's decision to ask secondary schools to partially open sometime after 1st June 2020 to students in Years 10 and 12. I am writing to parents/carers of students in these years to outline what this means for us and how we are proposing to operate under these new government guidelines.

You may be aware that the part of the government's guidance most applicable to secondary schools says:

Year groups in first phase of wider opening

- *From 1 June 2020, we expect that secondary schools and colleges will be able to offer some **face to face contact with year 10 and year 12 pupils**. This will not be a return to full timetables or pupils back in school or college full time, rather some support to supplement pupils' remote education*
- *The two year groups in mainstream secondary schools and colleges have been prioritised because they are preparing for key examinations next year, and are most at risk of falling behind due to time out of school or college.*
- *In line with implementing protective measures and reducing contacts, schools and colleges should limit the attendance of the year 10 and 12 cohort in the setting at any one time and keep students in small groups.*
- *Scientific advice indicates that a phased return that limits the number of children in education settings and how much they mix with each other will help to control the rate of transmission.*

You will appreciate from the above that a return to 'normal schooling' is not yet possible. Instead we are planning to offer opportunities for students in Year 10 and 12 to attend school in small groups to reconnect with their education, re-establish some social connection with their peers and be in school to converse with their teachers. This will also enable us to begin the process of reviewing progress during school closure and set aims and priorities for the future.

Once this first stage has been completed for all Year 10 and 12 we hope to provide opportunities for more academic input in core subjects for Year 10 and in chosen subjects for Year 12.

We believe that the first stage will take us approximately 5 days to complete for all Year 10 and 12 across two weeks.

Working in small groups in the way that I have set out will minimise movement across the school and reduce the number of contacts that each individual student has with others outside the small "bubble". We will of course organise rigorous cleaning procedures between sessions.

Subject to safety advice from Public Health England we anticipate that we will move to the second stage, involving contact with subject staff probably in mid-June for Year 12 or late June –early July for Year 10.

The second stage will involve slightly larger groups of about 10-15 but we would still conform to the expectations of social distancing and rigorous cleaning between sessions. For this reason, we anticipate that pupils in Year 10 will be in school for about 2 hours at a time more frequently and those in Year 12 for a bit longer more frequently.

There will be no social time in school, no break time or lunch time. These times are the riskiest in terms of maintaining social distancing and our assessment of risk indicates that this is best avoided.

At the end of their session pupils will be expected to make their way home directly in an orderly manner maintaining social distancing requirements. **Pupils do not need to wear school uniform.**

At the moment we are only able to commit to the first stage of this plan, as I say the second stage is very desirable but is subject to Public Health guidance.

Journey to and from school

We will ask the bus companies to assist us with school journeys, however it is unlikely that they will be able to put on additional buses to help with abnormal travel times that our arrangements will require. We are therefore asking parents to please assist in planning pupil journeys into school carefully. Walking wherever possible, cycling or using public transport is going to need maturity from our students and support from our parents. Unfortunately, we are unable to assist with this very much.

Pupil safety

Our planning in stages will be informed by risk assessments that we have/will carry out. The chief risk is clearly that associated with being infected with the virus and transmitting it to others. We will therefore be making a clear judgement when pupils arrive about any symptoms that they may be displaying. If we believe that it is risky for a pupil to be in school, we will inform parents and ask them to come and collect their child immediately. We will not have the time or resources to discuss or debate this.

Obviously, we will seek to ensure that the social distancing expectations are adhered to as far as possible and we will put in place rigorous cleaning and hand sanitising procedures. If a pupil fails to maintain social distancing expectations, after a reminder, we reserve the right to send them home.

I am aware that parents/carers will have serious worries about sending their children back into school under these circumstances. I would like to reassure you that we will do our utmost to ensure safe and medically sound practices. However, the decision to send your children in to school is yours. We will not be taking action for non-attendance.

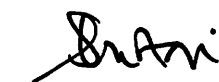
In order that we can plan effectively and use our limited resources efficiently I am asking parents to indicate to us if you are likely or unlikely to accept our invitation to your children to come into school for the sessions as outlined.

Based on the above information, I would be grateful if you could reply to us via the text message that you will receive later today indicating the following:

1. Name of child
2. Form group
3. If you are likely or unlikely to take up our invitation for your child to come into school as outlined above for stage 1
4. What arrangements will you make for your child's journey to and from school

Please respond via text with the above details by 3pm on Thursday, 21st May 2020. A copy of this letter will remain on the school website under school closure general information.

Yours sincerely,



Sunil Chotai
Headteacher