

20th May 2020

Dear parents/carers,

Following my letter to you on 13th May, I am writing to update you on our planning for students to return to school before the summer holidays. Following the current government guidance, the plan is for those students in year 10 to return to school first on a phased return taking into account all safety measures. We are hoping to organise this to begin from June 8th.

The safety, health and wellbeing of everyone in the school is, of course our highest priority. We are planning how to put into place the measures needed so that our school can be run safely, hygienically and with appropriate procedures in place when we re-open.

The Government has stressed that all re-opening plans will depend on infection rates decreasing and it won't make its final decision on whether schools can definitely reopen until May 28th. This uncertainty makes planning difficult, but we will continue to develop our plans to welcome some children back into school – we really miss seeing them!

The current Government guidance says that no more than 15 children can be in a secondary classroom when schools re-open. It has also said that students will need to sit two meters apart. We will therefore need to very carefully manage how to limit the number of pupils and staff who mix with each other whilst in school. In addition, it will be important that we avoid large numbers of students gathering when coming to or leaving school. This may mean we will have to stagger the times so groups arrive and leave at different times. We are expecting further guidance from the Department for Education later this week.

In order to put the appropriate measures in place, we need to know how many students are likely to come to school should we can reopen from June 8th for Year 10 students. We will be **sending the parents/carers of students in year 10 only a text message tomorrow, asking if you do plan to send you child back to school. You will need to reply to the text by Friday 22nd May at 10.30am.** Once we know how many students to expect, we can then start to work out how and when they can return from 8th June.

If your child is in year 10 and has specific health vulnerabilities, as detailed [here](#), they should not attend school even from 8th June. If you are unsure, please contact Mr Smith or Mr Bagley to discuss further.

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If your child is already attending our Community Classrooms for key workers and vulnerable children, they can continue to do so regardless of which year group they are in and we encourage them to attend.

At this point all other year groups, year 7,8,9 and 11 need to continue with their distance learning and teachers are working very hard to provide you with the next phase of work.

I will write to you again on Thursday 4th June when I will share some specific arrangements and plans for year 10. Please do bear with us, I know that many of you will already have lots of questions, but I would ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to organise the return to school.

In the meantime, and for all of our students in other year groups, please do continue to encourage your child with their home learning. We hope that you and your families are well and safe at this time and I will be in touch again soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Punton', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Principal
Roger Punton