

8 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope you and your family are well.

Please take the time to read the information in this letter carefully as it outlines our current proposals for the rest of this term based on the most recent Government guidance. The key priority remains the welfare and safety of students and staff.

Last week we started the online lessons using Microsoft Teams. We have been pleased by the positive response from many students and parents. However, some students are yet to engage with the lessons fully. If your child is not accessing the lessons as expected you will be contacted this week to encourage them to log-on and complete the work provided.

This will be important for many reasons. It begins to re-establish good learning behaviours, increases direct contact with teachers and ensure students do not fall behind in their studies. Also, at the current time we do not know what will happen in the future, regarding GCSE/BTEC examinations. This year the final examinations were cancelled resulting in the school submitting predicted grades based on a range of evidence. If this situation were repeated next year, we may have to consider the level of engagement with online lessons as a source of evidence. Therefore, it is vital your child actively participates in their online learning now.

All the information needed is available on the home page of the school website. There is a large icon named 'Remote Learning', with separate information for each year group.

It has been reported that secondary schools can partially re-open on 15 June for Year 10 students, if the government thinks it's safe to do so. This will not be on a full-time basis but will allow pupils to get some face-to-face contact with teachers to support their home learning.

The current plans for Year 10 students are outlined below:

Week beginning Monday 15 June

Student and one parent will be invited to attend an Academic and Welfare Review meeting in school. The Review will include overall progress, concerns, barriers to learning, target setting and return to school expectations. Each student will be sent an appointment time, which will minimize the number of people onsite at any one time. We will be unable to change appointment times.

If the student is shielding, self-isolating or ill it may be possible to complete the review by telephone or via a Microsoft Teams meeting. Please contact the school to discuss this option.

If your child normally uses school transport and you have difficulties in providing transport to attend the Review Meeting please contact the school to discuss alternative arrangements.

Week beginning Monday 22 June

Whilst it is your decision if your child attends school, we would recommend they do so if possible, to encourage them to maximise their learning opportunities.

Students to attend onsite English lessons (Monday – Thursday) in 'bubbles' of 10 working with one teacher. There will be three 'bubble' groups per day. These groups will remain the same for the next few weeks to minimise contact with other students.



The onsite lesson will replace the online English lessons during the week. The subject lesson will last approximately 2 hours (including comfort break).

Each bubble will be issued with a staggered start time of either 8.30 am, 9.00 am or 9.30 am to minimise the opportunity for contact with others.

Students will leave at staggered times and the classroom will be cleaned at end of the session.

For those students who do not attend the onsite lesson, alternative work will be set via Show My Homework.

Week beginning Monday 29 June

The same arrangements will apply as the previous week, but the lessons will be Mathematics.

Week beginning Monday 6 July

The same arrangements will apply as the previous week, but the lessons will be Science.

Week beginning Monday 13 July

The arrangements for the final week of term will be confirmed nearer the time as school decisions will be based on the updated Government advice.

Those students attending school will have to follow strict social distancing and personal hygiene rules. If they fail to follow expectations, they will be subject to normal behaviour sanctions, including exclusion from the school site. Students do not have to wear school uniform but wear suitable clothes that should be washed on returning home. At the present time the canteen remains closed so students should bring any snacks and drinks.

Later this week you will be sent an appointment time for the Review meeting. Details of the 'bubble' group and the allocated day for onsite attendance to meet face-to-face with the teachers will be issued at this meeting.

If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable (shielding), or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning. If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school.

The decision for your child to attend school is based on your judgement about their safety and welfare. At the current time it is not compulsory for students to attend and we will not issue penalty notices following non-attendance. Please complete the questionnaire to inform us of your decision and reason for your child not attending school each week starting on Monday 22 June.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=pGSzktqF0WtMGeWgmb4Jor-pWvoUVtCmYKpR5R2Ek5UQUhaUkpGMIRPQk5VRjBFSkpCUIhINVhHVC4u>

We hope these arrangements will allow your child to maintain and develop their learning during these challenging times. Thank you for your continued support.

Best wishes

R James

CEO/Executive Headteacher

C Leys

Head of School