

22nd June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

1. Welcome back to our Year 10s and 12s

Last week saw the return of our Year 10 and 12 students to school. These students joined the 30 students who had been already working in school as part of our 'key worker/ extra support' provision. In line with government guidance, we had approximately a quarter of the students from Year 10 and 12 in on each day. Our aim was to provide both pastoral and academic provision to the students which would help support them in their learning for the rest of the week. We used revised school routines to ensure that social distancing and good hand hygiene was in place. It was wonderful to have our students returning to school and we were very pleased with how the first week went in terms of the operation of our safety procedures, and the engagement of the students with their learning.

2. Reporting on student progress

We will be providing end of year reports for all students. These reports will be sent by post to parents of students in Years 7 to 10 and Year 12. These reports will be provided to parents by the 9th July. We will follow up these reports with phone calls to all parents and students to allow for a discussion on their progress.

We had intended to run Year 10 and 12 exams at the end of this academic year. As we progressed through the term, I considered that these exams would be better placed in the new academic year, when all of the students will have had more opportunity to prepare for them with face to face support from their teachers. Assessment for this year will be based upon exams taken prior to the closure of schools and the work that has been produced by students during home learning.

3. Supporting the students' learning

Students' progress during the period of school closure will, of course, vary from student to student. We are determined to ensure that we support all of our students to address any gaps in their learning that they may have. Last Friday, the government announced funding for catch-up support for students who require it. Our planning for this catch-up centres on reviewing the curriculum to ensure that we are very clear on the learning needed by the students; having very accurate assessment on the progress made by the students and catch-up classes to address learning gaps. This process will, of course, need to take place over an extended period of time. However, I am confident that with careful planning, skilled work by

teachers, and the hard work of the students, we will together be able to deal with gaps in the students' learning.

4. Student workbooks

In response to the school closure we have undertaken a major re-shaping of how we deliver our lessons for the students. All of the lesson content and the activities to be carried out by the students have now been captured in workbooks for all subjects and topics learnt by the students. The benefits of these workbooks will be:-

- they capture all of the work for the students in one place, so making them easier to access for the students.
- the workbooks can be used both at home and in school, so they support learning when students are in school for part of the time, as the Year 10s and 12s currently are.
- the workbooks allow for a number of different teachers including class teachers, those managing home learning and those running catch-up lessons, to know exactly what the students have been taught and provide standard materials that can be used by all teachers who are looking to support a student's learning.

The workbooks will be posted online for each student, will be used in class by teachers and students, and paper copies are being provided to all Year 10 students.

5. School opening plans for September

As you will be aware the government has not provided clear guidance on how schools will run in September. As a school we are planning for two eventualities; firstly, the return of all students and, secondly, the partial return of students. I hope that over the next few weeks the position will become clearer and we will be able to share with you our firm plans for the return of all students to school.

Yours faithfully,

Jamie Brownhill
Headteacher