



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

The purpose of this communication is to answer, as far as possible, questions that were raised by the parent/carers and student surveys that were sent out last week and to update you in respect of where we are in the planning process for a partial re-opening for Year 10 students.

Thank you to those parent/carers and students who responded to the survey. There were over 300 responses in total. I have produced a separate document alongside this letter to answer questions where I possibly can. The responses, broadly speaking, were of support for a return to school for Year 10 students together with concern and anxiety about doing so in equal measure and with quite a bit of overlap of these categories. There were a couple of misconceptions evident in some responses that I think it worthy of including them here for clarity:

- We are not legally allowed to open to any year group other than Year 10. Whilst I would very much like to bring other year groups back to school as soon as it is safe, the government do not currently permit this. As soon as this changes, our planning process will incorporate other year groups. Although the Prime Minister has referred to further possible easing of lockdown on 4<sup>th</sup> July, none of this at the moment appears to relate to schools.
- The government has not stated that Year 10 should return, full time with the benefit of a full curriculum, from 1<sup>st</sup> June. Indeed, the messages given have actually been the precise opposite and are going further in that direction each time there is a communication. Unfortunately guidance to secondary schools is not yet released by the government, however there is an increasing feeling that this will place a limit on the number of students we can have in school, even if we can accommodate more, due to the social contact students of this age may have outside school. The scientific briefing that was given by the government to the professional associations last week intimated that having full year groups on-site was a real concern.

Going forwards, we are fully engaged in the planning process for Year 10 to have some return to school, starting as soon as possible after the half-term (this will not be on 1<sup>st</sup> June). This provision will be designed to support and enhance the work students are completing at home, which will continue for all Year 10 students, together with some personal development work. At the moment the government has not issued its secondary school specific guidance which will heavily influence the provision we are able to offer and we are obliged to abide by; the 'guidance' commonly being referred to in the media is from generic guidance and the primary school specific guidance issued last week. My aim is to have a full plan prepared by the time the government announces the outcome of its scientific assessment (which will determine whether any school opening can take place) on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May. Assuming this assessment approves schools opening further and no unexpected amendments are made, I will write to Year 10 parents as soon as possible afterwards, with full details of the provision we are planning to offer, including operational details of safety precautions, risk assessment and transport. This provision will be available in school to Year 10 students who wish to or are able to access it; this will be the free choice of the parents/carers as to whether students attend and this choice will be respected. We will continue to provide a full programme of remote learning for students who remain working entirely at home. I must be completely clear as to the importance of the government guidance (instructions) we still await and we cannot push ahead with a plan without it.

Please rest assured that the health and safety of all our school community is of paramount importance as we proceed carefully through this planning process. Please take care of yourself and your family.

Yours faithfully

I. Siddall  
Headteacher



- When do you plan for the rest of the students to go back to school?  
*At the moment the government's position is that schools should only plan for schools to offer Year 10 students "some face-to-face contact with their teachers". We have been specifically told that we are not allowed to bring other year groups back in. As soon as this position is altered, we will plan for other year groups to come back in.*
- What form would school transport take? How would social distances work on buses?  
*We believe that bus companies will be operating the school buses in the normal way. These operators will define how social distancing will work on the buses and students using these services will be expected to follow it.*
- How will you implement social distancing in school?  
*Firstly we will need to educate students as to what social distancing looks like so they understand the rationale and practice for it. Students will be grouped so that they are in the same group of students each day as far as possible. Further to that, we will ensure that students are seated in classrooms at an appropriate distance from each other and the teacher and we will stagger breaks and lunchtimes so as to limit the number of other students they have contact with. At each stage we will follow the relevant and current government guidance.*
- How would you deal with students who find it funny to cough on others or similar?  
*This will be specifically addressed with students before the provision starts and students doing this will be dealt with severely.*
- How will the students' missed learning be caught up on?  
*We are looking at the way we set home learning work to see if there is a better way to do this. We are also looking at the curriculum structure to see if there is a way we can alter what we teach when students return to allow gaps in crucial areas to be closed.*
- If a student has a clinically extremely vulnerable parent at home, do they have to come to school?  
*No. As the accompanying letter states, any student attending between now and the end of the academic year does so with the agreement of parents/carers.*
- Will my child be expected to wear a face mask or similar around school?  
*No. Government's current guidance is clear that such equipment is not required in schools where social distancing is being implemented.*
- What does school being open on a 'partial' basis actually mean?  
*By 'partial' we mean that students will attend for part of the week rather than full-time.*
- Will there be additional cleaning of desks, chairs and other surfaces?  
*Yes – the areas used by students will be subject to additional cleaning beyond the 'normal' standard.*
- Will hand sanitiser be available in school?  
*Yes – we have sourced a large amount of this and it will be available in key areas.*
- Will you be able to guarantee the safety of students if they return to school?  
*We cannot 100% guarantee that all students will not be exposed to some risk. We are used to managing everyday risk in practical areas such as technology and PE and we will ensure that a risk assessment is in place and that this reflects all the current guidance.*
- Will parents have access to the risk assessment that is put in place?  
*Yes – this will be part of the plans that we will send out at the appropriate time.*

- What will you do if a student/staff shows symptoms of C19?  
*This will form part of the risk assessment. Students/staff who are symptomatic should not attend and self-isolate for 7 days. The procedure for dealing with students/staff who become symptomatic during a school day is to be prescribed in the forthcoming government guidance and we will follow that process.*
- Will the full year group be in school?  
*No. Only part of the year group will be in school at any one time.*
- How will you manage break, lunch etc.?  
*The unstructured times will be staggered to minimise contact.*
- Will there be additional help for GCSE students next year?  
*Yes. These plans are being worked on ready for roll-out as soon as possible.*
- Can online classes be further developed to allow students to interact with their teacher online?  
*Yes. We are looking into this and hope to be able to say something more very soon.*
- How will GCSE exams in 2021 be affected?  
*We genuinely do not know the answer to this. At the moment all our preparation is geared towards examinations taking place as usual in 2021, however we are keeping a very keen eye on developments.*
- How will you help next year's Year 7 students settle in, considering their disrupted end to primary school?  
*We will be doing a lot of work remotely with primary schools to ensure that we have as much information as possible on each student that is joining us. If there is an opportunity for a meeting of some sort to take place then we will do so, however the government have specifically ruled out primary students visiting secondary schools. Additionally, we have appointed a Head of Year 7 to work alongside the Head of House team to further facilitate transition.*
- Will you provide proof that my child will be safe in school?  
*We will publish all relevant details about the structure of the school day and how we will manage/mitigate risk. This will be designed to make the school environment as safe as possible. It will be for parents and students to decide if they wish to access the provision.*
- How can you alleviate the anxiety of my child who is not in Year 10 and so will not be returning to school?  
*This is a very difficult situation – we genuinely wish we could have other year groups in school, however at the moment this is neither allowed nor practical. We will seek to enhance the quality of the current provision and make any adjustments we see as appropriate to the curriculum of these students when they return in order to help them settle back in.*
- Will the current provision for key worker children, who already attend, continue?  
*Yes this will continue.*
- Will parents face penalties if they do not send their child back to school?  
*No. We have already made clear the school's stance on this.*
- Will you deliver virtual lessons to students who are not at school – either live or recorded?  
*We are trialling the use of different platforms with a view to facilitating greater face-to-face interaction with students.*
- Will you provide additional teaching over the summer holidays for students taking GCSE exams in 2021?

*This is possible and will be factored into our planning as we move forward.*

- Will there be any provision for students transitioning from Year 6 to Year 7 this summer?  
*The government has specifically said that transition visits are not allowed, however we are seeking to engage our new students remotely and, if there is an opportunity for a meeting, we will take it.*
- Will toilets be open during the day and hand sanitiser available?  
*Yes.*
- Will students be temperature-checked on arrival?  
*This is not currently in our planning, however if government requirements alter then we will alter with them.*
- Will students be in the same class each day, thereby reducing the contact with others?  
*This is currently the plan.*
- For Year 8 students, when will they know about their option choices and their timetable for September?  
*We are currently finalising option choices. Once this is done, we will write to parents and students.*
- Will students wear school uniform when they return?  
*There will be some guidance as to what students wear. This is very unlikely to be the full school uniform for reasons of hygiene as well as the fact that many students will have outgrown items of uniform with little opportunity for replacement.*
- How will movement around the school be controlled?  
*Movements will be staggered, a one-way system is likely to be in place and students will be expected to respect social distancing.*
- Will homework be set?  
*Remote learning will continue to be set as currently.*
- Will the catering facilities be open during a partial re-opening?  
*We are working with Chartwells (our catering contractors) to provide an appropriate level of service to ensure that food and drink are available. Dining room arrangements will incorporate social distancing.*