

Dear Parents / Carers

I hope you managed to enjoy half term and the glorious weather we have been experiencing. I also hope that your children are still managing to cope with lockdown and the continued absence from school. I am sure that many of them are finding it very unsettling.

You will all, no doubt, have seen the Prime Minister's announcement that some "face to face" contact for Y10 and Y12 students should be made available by secondary schools from June 15th at the earliest.

The accompanying guidance (released at the beginning of last week) made it clear that:

- any plans to reopen earlier than the 15 June should be amended to start on 15 June at the earliest
- we should cater for no more than 25% of the cohort on any given day
- plans should focus on supplementing remote learning but that remote learning should remain as the predominant form of learning

It is clear, therefore, that this partial reopening will still be a long way from a "normal" school experience. Clearly, the 25% rule (which has been implemented by the government to attempt to keep the transmission of the virus to a minimum) means that you should only expect your child to be able to come into school for approximately one day per week at this stage.

I am very grateful to those of you who completed our survey about your intentions regarding sending your children back to school. There was significant support for an "academic review day" style catch up with tutors / teachers; a high level of support for some small group teaching if we could guarantee that students would remain in the same social "bubble" but somewhat reduced support for small group teaching if that meant that students would mix, albeit in a socially distanced manner, with lots of other students.

We have completed risk assessments for various scenarios which I am taking to my Trust Board this week. We will then need to liaise with staff representatives to satisfy them that our arrangements are safe. Once this process is complete, I will post our risk assessments on the school website for your perusal. It is clear, therefore, that our current plans are subject to potential alteration but I wanted to let you know that, given what we know just now, we are planning for Phase 1 of our reopening to be an opportunity for individual / very small group catch up for Y10 and Y12 students with their tutors in the week beginning 15 June, supplemented by the increased use of "live" events via Microsoft Teams. We then hope to expand this to subject specific sessions with classroom teachers before, potentially, offering some small group teaching towards the end of term.

I hope that you understand that I can't be more specific at this stage but I wanted to give you a flavour of our planning. Once everything has been given the go ahead, I will write out to you with more specific details.

Yours sincerely

Neil Finlay
Headteacher