

18 May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I hope that you are all well and have had a good weekend.

As I mentioned in my letter last Monday, the Prime Minister signalled that Year 10 would return to school prior to the summer holiday. The messaging from government became clearer during the course of the week that this could be from 1<sup>st</sup> June and in line with nurseries, reception, Year 1 and Year 6.

Our planning therefore changed during the week and we are still waiting for further guidance from the government. This may affect our draft plan which I will share with you on Wednesday, regardless of whether the further guidance has been published, so that you are kept up to date with our decision making.

The principles surrounding all of our planning are that:

- Student and staff safety remains the first priority
- We will adhere to the current social distancing guidance at all times
- For this to be worthwhile for our students, the on-site provision must be even better than our successful remote learning

We have some physical and human resource constraints in terms of space which are that:

- We can accommodate 8 students 2m apart in a general classroom
- We can accommodate 9 students 2m apart in an Art Classroom
- We can accommodate 10 students 2m apart in a D&T or Food room for non-practical work
- We can accommodate 12 students 2m apart in the large PE classroom situated in the science department, South Building
- The Dining Hall capacity is 39 students; the outside seating spaces add to this capacity
- Staff need to continue the on line curriculum and support for all year groups

The DfE guidance states that all children in all schools need to remain as one class while in school. We cannot change the groups during this phase of return. This presents us with a significant challenge, as students cannot move groups during the day. For any on-site provision we need to identify where the same group of 8-12 children will benefit from being taught more than one subject together. This will be easier to achieve in the core subjects of English, mathematics and science which all students take at GCSE, with option subjects presenting a greater challenge.

Not every year 10 student will be in school all day, every day to begin with. This will be a phased return. Indeed, it is unlikely that we will get to the position this term whereby every year 10 is in all day, every day. However, all teachers agree that it would be hugely beneficial for Year 10 to have contact with their teachers as soon as the government determine it is safe to do so and if I keep our site as safe as possible.

During the last 8 weeks, our school has been open to vulnerable and key worker children. As a result of our safe working practices, our adherence to social distancing, our focused cleaning and disinfecting routines we have had no cases of children or staff becoming unwell with symptoms as a result of being at school. This gives me confidence that our site has been as safe as possible throughout this time. I am immensely grateful to all our staff who have been involved in keeping the school safe and clean.

As I mentioned earlier, we are working within an ever-changing set of advice and guidance from central government, which is completely understandable as our country's situation changes. We will also expect updates from central government during the next 2 weeks relating to a Year 10 return date. The final decision on this will be reliant on scientific tests set out by the government, which will be reviewed on 28 May. The government's roadmap says: *"It is possible that the dates ... will be delayed if these conditions are not met. Changes will be announced at least 48 hours before coming into effect."* Therefore, our planning needs to take account of this uncertainty.

I will be back in touch with you on Wednesday. In the meantime, I hope you have a good week.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Hemmings', written in a cursive style.

Mr P. Hemmings  
Headteacher