

9th June 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Wider re-opening of schools to Years 10 and 12

As you may be aware the government set out further guidance about wider opening of schools to key year groups during the half term break. Governors and the school's senior leadership team have now met and agreed a new model for the remainder of the half term. It is important to note, however, that the proposal will be reviewed every two weeks as the government issues new guidance and we review the pros and cons of the provision we are offering.

Background

- On 11th May the Government announced that secondary schools should offer "some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 students" from 1st June.
- On 19th May the Governors agreed to maintain in school supervision for key workers and vulnerable children and to extend remote education through video conferencing for Year 10.
- On 5th June the Governors agreed to extend face-to-face support to some other students who need it and to extend remote education through video conferencing for Year 9.

Rationale

The reason for the approach chosen is it that, under current restrictions, **remote education is the most efficient way of delivering education** and the most effective way of reducing transmission.

Why is this the case?

Consider an A Level class. As the DfE guidance states that only a quarter of Year 12 students can be in school on any given day it would mean that, to deliver one hour of teaching, a teacher would need to be in school on four different days: delivering the same lesson to a quarter of the students on each day. This would mean four hours of lesson delivery for one hour of teaching and learning.

With GCSE and BTEC classes, efficiency is similar; as due to social distancing, teachers will still only be able to teach 8 to 10 students at a time compared with the 24 to 30 they can teach using video conferencing. Therefore, once again, three hours of lesson delivery only leads to one hour of teaching and learning.

Teachers deliver a maximum of 22 hours of lessons per week; the remainder of their time being taken up with marking work, planning and preparing teaching. However, with lessons needing to be repeated four times - it would mean teachers could only deliver five hours of teaching and learning each week, which is

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around half an hour for each teaching group. As this would take up almost all their allocated time, they would not be able to provide successful remote education in other forms including EduLink and Moodle.

With remote learning, teachers can deliver an hour of teaching and learning to each teaching group in addition to the other forms of remote education they provide through EduLink and Moodle.

Whilst remote education is the most efficient way of delivering education it is also acknowledged that there are some students, outside of the Key Worker and Vulnerable Children category, who would benefit from receiving some in school supervision.

Our approach to increasing in school supervision.

It is our belief that students should, wherever possible, continue to learn from home.

Questions parents may have.

How will it run?

Our proposed model is as follows:

Day	Tutors	Non-Tutors	TAs, SEND and Support Team
Monday	Java and A Level	Key Workers	Vulnerable Children and SEND*
Tuesday	Matrix and BTEC	Key Workers	Vulnerable Children and SEND*
Wednesday			Key Workers and Vulnerable Children
Thursday	Oberon and Yr12 Mixed	Key Workers	Vulnerable Children and SEND*
Friday	Vector and Football Academy	Key Workers	Vulnerable Children and SEND*

Form tutors will be inviting specific students into school at specific times to ensure that there has been an opportunity to review their home learning and address any issues or concerns that may have arisen over the last few months and jointly plan a way forward for the coming weeks. This will be done via the Edulink app. Parents and students themselves will also have the opportunity to request a review meeting. If you wish to book an appointment time please use the link below to book a slot.

<https://forms.gle/mBH7yMCd2SUgZuSG9>

Whether students with SEND receive supervision from their Form Tutor or the SEND Team will be determined by the SENCo based on the nature of their needs.

During their Tutor Day students will work in their Tutor Room on their own, using their device (laptop or tablet) or one provided by school. Form Tutors will provide supervision while students complete the learning they would normally do at home. Their role will not be to provide teaching as this will happen through other means; for example, taking part in video conferencing lessons delivered by the Subject Teachers who are working from home or completing work that their Subject Teachers have set using EduLink or Moodle.

Why has Wednesday been kept free?

Wednesday has been kept free for other events; for example, Virtual Induction Day for Year 8 on 1st July.

General concerns

Please note, if your child is displaying any symptoms of illness they should not be sent to school. Any two cases or suspected cases of CoVid19 in a school will result in the school being closed for two weeks for deep cleaning, in keeping with Public Health England guidance.

What if my child has not been doing much of the work set?

It is vital that you child undertakes as much of the work set as possible. If your child has been struggling with motivation or the difficulty of the work please ensure that they have an appointment with their form tutor to work on a way forward.

When will this start?

- The first day for our wider opening will be **Friday 19th June.**

How have you managed risk?

- All Risk Assessments have been re-written to ensure that they are CoVid 19 compliant and now reflect the different operating circumstances we find ourselves in and are available on the school website, along with photographs of the changes to the school site and a map of the new one way system.
- We have been using standardised updated forms provided by our Local Authority.

What about the classrooms?

- A range of classrooms will be open. All classrooms have been assessed against new social distancing guidance and have had furniture removed to ensure that we comply with the relevant maximum number of students in any one room.

What's happening about transport (if used)?

- All drivers will be wearing appropriate PPE
- Students will be distanced and not sit within 2 metres of each other
- We will run additional minibus journeys to accommodate staggered starts and enable time for cleaning in between journeys
- All children will wear masks provided by the school whilst on the school minibus
- LA provided transport will also be revised to meet new Health and Safety measures.

Will all the children be coming back at the same time?

- No, at present it is just invited students from Years 10 and 12 on key days as well as those that request time in school.

Lessons and lesson structure / Online learning provision

- Online learning will continue as the main form of learning.
- Form tutors will have tutorials with targeted students and supervise in school working of others as appropriate.

Travel around school – how will this work?

- This will be significantly prohibited. Students will operate in “social bubbles” meaning that they cannot mix with other groups of students.
- 2 metre distance markers have been placed all around the key areas of the school.
- Students will be accompanied at all key times during the school day in the initial stages of the return to school.
- Students will not be permitted to enter certain areas of the school as these will not be in use. This will be strictly adhered to.
- A one way system around the school site will be in operation and will need to be strictly adhered to.

PE lessons

- There will be no PE lessons during the initial stages of the return to education plan.

Lunch and breaks – how will these work?

- We are staggering breaks and lunchtimes so that we reduce social contact with others.
- Students can bring in lunch / snacks from home.
- Students will be sat separately from their classmates and be supervised whilst consuming their food.
- Where possible we will allow students the opportunity to be outside and get some fresh air.

1st Aid

- Any student requiring first aid during their time in school will be treated by a trained member of staff who will be equipped with PPE

Behaviour and social distancing generally

- It is essential that we trust all students to follow straight forward guidance around social distancing and behaviour generally.

- We cannot and will not have any behaviour that could potentially endanger the well being and safety of other students or staff.
- Any student who fails to comply with our instructions will be sent home immediately with no recourse to appeal the decision. They will not be allowed to return to school until the government advice and guidance changes. Parents will be contacted directly to discuss any issues that arise.

Attendance

- Parents are not currently compelled to send their children into school and there will be no action against any parent wishing to keep their child at home.

What about other year groups attending school?

- Presently there is no indication that other year groups will be expected to attend the High School before the end of this academic year. We will closely monitor any changes in government guidance.

Parental access to the school site

- There will be absolutely no access to the school site for parents or carers at this stage.
- We will work with all other agencies to minimise any extraneous site visitors.

Uniform

Students are not expected to wear uniform during this partial return to schooling.

Your faithfully,

Alun Harding
Executive Headteacher

Jess Shulman
Chair of Governors