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Dear Parents, Carers and Students in Year 10,

This letter is to give you some more information about our specific plans for Year 10 until the end of term. I last wrote to you at the start of the half-term break and I hope that your family has been able to enjoy some of the lovely weather we have had in this period.

During the half term break the Department for Education (DfE) published guidance for secondary schools which we have studied carefully and used to inform our plans to open the school up to more students.

We support the government's ambition that students facing exams next year should receive some face-to-face contact with their teachers this half term. On 24th May the Prime Minister announced that secondary schools should plan on the basis that from the week commencing 15th June, they can invite year 10 and 12 students back into school for some face-to-face support, subject to the government's five tests being met.

We have been advised that this face-to-face support will supplement the remote education of year 10 (and year 12 students), which should remain the predominant mode of education during this term for students in these year groups. We will need to continue to control the numbers attending school to reduce the risk of increasing transmission. Schools have been told that no more than a quarter of the year 10 and year 12 cohort should be in school at any one time.

In preparation for more students coming to school, we have adapted the focus of our regular pastoral catch-up phone call home. Staff are asking questions about any health issues or particular home circumstances that may lead us to advise that a return to school on 15<sup>th</sup> June is too soon for your son. We are also finding how you feel about students returning to school.

### **Health and Safety in school**

William Ellis has carried out a thorough risk assessment which has been shared with staff and governors. The following measures will be implemented to ensure that face to face support in school is as safe as it can be. We will:

- Make it absolutely clear that students or staff who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, must not attend school.
- Insist on cleaning hands more often than usual – students and staff will be encouraged to regularly wash their hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly. We are fortunate that the layout of the school facilitates good handwashing routines on entry to the building and before entering the canteen. Hand sanitiser will be provided.
- Ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces often, using the recommended standard products such as detergents and bleach.
- Minimise contact and mixing, as far as possible, by keeping students in the small groups for face-to-face support and keeping those groups as consistent as possible whilst in school.
- Classroom layouts have been changed so desks are 2 metres apart. No more than 10 students in one group.

- Practise social distancing in line with the measures the government is asking everyone to adopt in public and in workplaces.
- No more than a quarter of students in year 10 and year 12 are in school at any one time, including identified priority children and children of critical workers in those year groups who are still encouraged to attend full-time.
- Minimise mixing for arrival, lunchtime, breaks and departure.
- Encourage students to walk or cycle where possible. Face to face support will start at 10am to help staff and students avoid peak travel times.

### **Week Beginning 15 June**

Every student in year 10 is being invited into school one day per week for a day of supported learning. Tutor groups will be divided into 'bubbles' of eight to ten students. The purpose will be:

- To review the progress that they have made with their learning
- To identify where they need additional support
- To introduce students to new health and safety routines
- To provide wellbeing support

While students are in school, they will participate in the online live lessons available for their subjects – most students have two live lessons per day. For the rest of the day, students will participate in a PE lesson, receive dedicated support with their English work from an English teacher and have some time to review their work with their tutor and discuss any issues they want to raise face to face.

We anticipate that this format will then continue the nominated day for the tutor group each week, although we will keep this under review according to the needs of the students. This may involve group teaching for English and PSHE. These plans may also change if the government issue new guidance to schools.

During this half term we will continue to support all students with remote learning at home. Remote learning, which will be the predominant mode of education for year 10, will include:

- Learning tasks uploaded to TEAMS including feedback given to students
- Live online lessons


### **Clinically vulnerable students**

- If your child is in the clinically extremely vulnerable group and therefore shielding, he should remain at home. You will have received a letter from the NHS with advice and guidance.
- If your son is living with somebody who is shielding, he should remain at home.
- If your child is in the clinically vulnerable group, he should remain at home until you have received advice from your GP.

We are expecting all other students in year 10 to take advantage of the face to face support which is being offered this half term.

We will write to families again next week with further information about arrangements from 15 June.

Yours sincerely,



Sam White