

26<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your family safe and well.

Following the Government's recent announcement to reopen schools for a phased return from June 1st, we have been making the necessary plans to ensure that our school is safe for our students, families and staff. We have been asked by the Government to provide face to face support to our current Year 10 and Year 12 students before the summer holidays, whilst still ensuring that our childcare provision for the children of Keyworkers and our vulnerable students continues. For Years 7, 8, 9, 11 and 13 our home learning package will continue to support remote learning for our young people. The Government confirmed how they would like Headteachers to begin to provide support for Years 10 and 12 in guidance to schools, we have worked tirelessly over the past weeks to ensure that everything is in place and all aspects of our provision risk assessed.

Our main priority is the safety of our students, families and staff and as I am sure you will appreciate this is made more difficult by the many unknowns and uncertainties that still exist around the Covid-19 virus.

At this current time, in line with Government guidance, we will offer face to face support for Years 10 and 12 from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Students in these year groups will be invited into the Academy for one session each week from the week commencing 15<sup>th</sup> June until the end of the summer term. Each session will last 2.5 hours. Students will be in small groups (*bubbles*) of no more than 12 and will remain in the same classroom for their session; no more than ¼ of our year group will attend each day. Students will have a different start and finish time to ensure that we are able to socially distance, there will be no breaks and our canteen will be closed.

We will strictly follow the health, safety and hygiene protocols issued by the Government and Public Health England. This will include the use of hand sanitiser, and handwashing by staff and students will be implemented during regular intervals across the school session. We will also be promoting good respiratory hygiene adopting the catch it, bin it, kill it approach as recommended by Public Health England. Thorough cleaning routines will be in place during the day to ensure frequently touched surfaces such as door handles, handrails, table tops and resources are sanitised to minimise risk. We will be closed to Year 10 and Year 12 students on Wednesday to allow a weekly deep clean.

I am aware that the decision to allow your son or daughter to return to school, even for a short weekly session is a very difficult one. Thank-you to parents and carers who completed our online survey to share your thinking with us. There is also a lot of information in the media at present, which can make it difficult to reach a decision.

To support you, parents and carers of Year 10 and 12 students will receive a phone call from a member of our Leadership Team to discuss the specific arrangements that we have made and to understand your choices moving forwards. I can reassure you, that you will not be penalised if you do not want to send your child into school at this time. We welcome the opportunity to work with


students in readiness for September, but fully support that this is your decision based on your personal circumstances.

Once we are aware of your intentions, I will send another letter to give more details which will include dates and times for sessions for Years 10 and 12 as well as information around dress code and safety and hygiene protocols for activities in classrooms during the day.

My final message to you all is that at the heart of all the decisions that have been made, and at the centre of all of our preparations, has been the wellbeing, health and safety of our staff and students. We continue to respond to ever changing situations and are endeavouring to keep you as fully informed as possible whilst doing so. The Prime Minister is due to give his school reopening update on the 28<sup>th</sup> May, should anything change, we will keep you informed.

Please continue to take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Miss L. Proctor

Principal