

03.06. 2020

RE: School Re-Opening times

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to personally thank you for your continued support as we work to educate your child during this COVID-19 crisis. The school team have worked rapidly and creatively, moving us to daily live video lessons, delivering laptops/iPads and communicating daily with you to ensure regular communication and learning. It has been heart-warming to see the vast majority of students engage in video lessons every day. Students (with the help of parents!) have done very well to complete and email quality pieces of work, which have been marked and returned to them successfully. Overall, together as a school community we have responded to this crisis amazingly well and I would like to commend you and your child for this.

As you may be aware from the Prime Minister's announcement last Sunday, the Department for Education published revised guidance to schools on Monday evening outlining the gradual and phased re-opening of schools from this month. This was only to happen if the governments 5 tests were met ensuring we can:

- 1 Protect the NHS's ability to cope. We must be confident that we are **able to provide sufficient critical care and specialist treatment** right across the UK.
- 2 See a **sustained and consistent fall in the daily death rates** from COVID-19 so we are confident that we have moved beyond the peak.
- 3 Reliable data from SAGE showing that **the rate of infection is decreasing to manageable levels** across the board.
- 4 Be confident that **the range of operational challenges, including testing capacity and PPE, are in hand**, with supply able to meet future demand.
- 5 Be confident that **any adjustments to the current measures will not risk a second peak of infections** that overwhelms the NHS.

I am working together with the school Leadership to manage all aspects of the process for re-opening our school. I would like to assure you that decisions about re-opening will be made with the safety of students and staff as the top priority for consideration.

In response to the government's statement, we propose to:

- 1) Continue video/remote lessons until July 21st and remote learning for **all** unless there are concerns for the safety of students being at home. A risk assessment will be completed for each individual.

- 2) Open the school on a number of set days from the 23rd of June and throughout July for all students. Dates for each group will be confirmed via email, phone calls and texts. We will provide an educational setting where pupils can take part in activities and be taught in class whilst observing the 2-meter social distancing rules.
- 3) Year 11's will be supported with their preparations for their college life and will not be taking any exams. Guidance is yet to be given as to how GCSE and FS Skills grades will be ultimately decided upon but we do know that predicted grades and past assessment grades will have the greatest impact upon this.

We will build on our existing plans over the next few weeks, following the latest government guidance as it is updated and will share more information with you as soon as we are able to.

In the meantime, you can read the government's guidance for parents on the proposed re-opening of schools below this letter or see the full document online on the given links.

We will continue to be in touch and available for conversations and questions **every day as usual** to ensure you and your child receives the highest quality of support and education from us during this period.

Again, thank you for your cooperation. This pandemic has been a test of our strength and unity as a community and some individual households have been tested considerably. I am personally pleased with how staff, parents, carers and students have all responded. We have pulled together. It's not over yet so please continue to stay safe as we move into the next phase of re-opening the school.

Yours sincerely

Alton McDonald
Headteacher

Actions for educational and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 1 June 2020' <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-educational-and-childcare-settings-to-prepare-for-wider-opening-from-1-june-2020>

Kind regards,

Alton McDonald
Headteacher