

14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Student, Parent or Guardian

This email is to alert you to some key information regarding a possible opening of schools and Colleges to year 12 students from June 1<sup>st</sup> at the earliest as well as a range guidance and information that the Government is providing to help us all prepare for this eventuality. As such the information is relevant to year 12 students (and their parents or guardians) nearing the end of their first year of A levels or Level 3 Applied courses.

As the Government has indicated the possibility of Colleges reopening to provide 'face to face support to year 12 students who are studying remotely' from June 1<sup>st</sup> at the earliest I have spent the early part of this week reading the guidance and updating our plans. Currently I am consulting with staff and Governors and aim to share more details of what 'face to face support' we will provide for students with you by the end of next week. I would like to give everyone the opportunity to be as well-informed as possible and so I have attached links to some of the Government's most important guidance to the end of my email. As the Government has signposted a general move towards reducing the lockdown restrictions I would recommend that students and parents look at Annex A of the Government's 'roadmap' which covers staying safe outside your home.

There are some aspects of our planning that I would like to share with you now:

- \* There is still uncertainty as to whether we will return and if so when. The Government has said that our return is dependent upon their 5 tests being met to determine that this is safe, and they say that this will be from June 1<sup>st</sup> at the earliest.
- \* We will not be asking year students to return in the week beginning June 1<sup>st</sup>. This is because we are conducting our end of year assessments for our year 12 students which we have decided will be completed by students at home. Our reason for this is because we want all students to have the same opportunity to do well in these important assessments and given that a number of students are unlikely to return at this point for a variety of reasons, completing them at home is the best way to ensure everyone has this opportunity. Our Deputy Principal, Ruth Scotson, will be provide details of these assessments tomorrow. This means that the earliest date we would require students to attend would be June 8<sup>th</sup>.
- \* In responding to the Government's guidance to prepare to reopen from June 1<sup>st</sup> at the earliest I am aware that some students, parents and staff will have concerns about the risk to their health posed by travelling on public transport and mixing with staff and students at

College. With this in mind I have decided that at this early stage in particular it is essential that we do everything we can to provide reassurance by maintaining the 2 metre physical distance between people while they are at College (as well as the other measures that we will take). This means that I will place severe restrictions on group sizes as well as the number of staff and students in College at the same time. A consequence of this is that the 'face to face support' will be delivered through a small group session in each of their subjects. We will continue to provide support for all students so that they can learn from home.

\* I would advise you against using public transport if at all possible. We have been in touch with the bus companies but as yet have had no response from some and concerns expressed by others with regards to whether they will be able to maintain physical distancing rules. When and if we get more information from them we will share this with you. If you do decide to use this method to get to College I will require you (or your son or daughter) to wear a face mask or covering. I would strongly recommend students wear a face mask at College.

\* Students that do not attend the 'face to face' sessions with their teacher through concerns for their health or that of family members or because of difficulties with public transport will NOT be subject to disciplinary action, although we will require them to let us know nearer the time if they can't attend.

As well as giving you more detail on how we plan to ensure everyone is safe when they return to College I will also be writing to parents and students with guidance on what you can do to help everyone stay safe.

Best wishes to you and your family,

Ed

The Government's 'roadmap' can be found [here](#). Please do look at Annex A 'Staying safe outside your home'.

A key aspect of Government's guidance to schools and Colleges planning can be found [here](#).

The Government guidance specifically for parents and carers can be found [here](#).

Frequently asked questions on what you can and can't do during the coronavirus outbreak have also been published. Those relating to schools and childcare can be found at section 6 [here](#).