

5th June 2020



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your family are well and keeping safe. I am writing to let you know of the plans that we have as a school following last week's announcement from the Government regarding secondary schools providing more face to face opportunities for Year 12 and Year 10 students from June 15th 2020. Any provision that we plan for will be in addition to the supervision we have in place for vulnerable and key worker children.

Our absolute priority is to continue developing teaching and learning experiences for all students across all year groups through on-line platforms, Show My Homework, Google and the recent addition of the Big Blue Button. Any wider opening of the school for Year 12 and 10 will be managed in a way that will have as little impact as possible on the learning opportunities for everyone. If staff are in school providing face to face lessons, it means that they will not be able to support other classes, and this is something I want to avoid as much as possible.

We are currently undertaking risk assessments and evaluating plans for our students, but this will not be on 15th June. We are also awaiting confirmation from the Department of Education on what a 'maximum of 25%' of students can attend, and what this equates to. If this is by year group, then we will have to adapt what we will be planning to do. If this is by whole school numbers, it provides greater flexibility. At the start of next week, we will be contacting parents and students of these year groups to ascertain who would want to attend school if possible. We are also aware that the Government plans for the phased re-opening of schools acknowledges that some parents may still decide not to send their children into school even if their child is in one of the returning year groups. This could be for a variety of reasons and it is down to individual families to make this decision. The Government has stated that parents who choose to keep their children at home will not be fined or suffer other consequences during this period.

Our school site is a challenging site to ensure safety and caution for social distancing and all plans will be accompanied by clear guidelines which must be followed regarding entry, departure and expectations in school. Much of the school will remain closed and out of bounds for this very reason and unfortunately our Cafés will remain closed. We are also aware of the challenges that may be faced due to the lack of school transport that will be provided. At this point in time, I am unaware of what this will look like. As always – when we know the facts, I will inform you all and provide greater detail in how the next few weeks will look (and work) for our school. Any opening of the school will be on reduced hours and not be a 'normal' school day.



POWERED BY



Principal: Russell Denial

The submission of grades for Year 11 and 13 students has begun this week along with all secondary schools in the country. My staff have worked tirelessly in preparing this information which has all been completed remotely through virtual meetings. The 'results' days remain as they were originally published, on August 13th (Year 13) and August 20th (Year 11). Timings of these days and logistics will be communicated nearer the time as will the Year 12 induction process for our Year 11 students.

I would like to ask in these challenging times that you do take a minute wherever possible to talk to your son or daughter about their work and what they have been working on. Engagement of our students has continued to improve and a huge thank you to you all for your support.

For now, we will keep working as we are amidst the frustrations, the challenges and the ambiguity! I will write to you all with clearer plans, when clear and definitive guidance has been provided. The safety and welfare of our school community will remain my priority.

Look after each other.

Yours faithfully,



Mr R Denial
Principal

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