

17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we draw to the end of the academic year, I would like to say a huge thank you to the support and kind words we have received over the last few months. It has been fantastic to see a number of our Year 10 and 12 students in school working with their teachers and the support has been immense. It has been really nice to see students back in school again.

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, I don't think any of us believed that we would be in the position we are today, but I have to say that the work some of our students have completed has been excellent and it has been great to see all of the new skills that some have achieved.

We must now begin to turn our thoughts to September, and I am sure that you are aware of the Government announcement that schools will be open for all pupils when we resume. I wrote in my previous letter about the amendments to the start of term but to confirm, they are as follows;

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	Years 7 & 12 only
Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	Years 7, 11, 12 & 13
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Years 7, 11, 12 & 13
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>All Years</b>

We have been planning for all eventualities for September and planning how we will work with our students in year-group 'bubbles'. In the latter part of the summer holidays we will publish our finalised plans in how the educational needs of all our young people will be met. All curriculum plans will be accompanied by detailed risk assessments to ensure that the school follows all PHE guidance and that the safety and welfare of everyone remains our key priority. We will amend some of our school policies to reflect any changes that we have to make.

As many of you will appreciate, juggling work, keeping routines, home schooling and trying to keep your children engaged with their learning during the period of lockdown has not been easy. As such we would like you to be aware that we have made changes to our current Behaviour Policy to ensure that Teaching & Learning are at the forefront of everything we do. In September, we will be launching our new Behaviour for Learning Policy which we would like your support with. We will be taking a zero approach in terms of poor behaviour so that our teachers can just focus on their teaching, giving our students the best opportunities for learning as much as they can, without others disrupting this. Once ratified by our Governors, this will be posted on our school website for your reference.

In both primary and secondary schools, the Government has relaxed the rules on attendance during lock down and many parents have exercised their right in not sending students who are eligible to attend. However, this will change in September.



POWERED BY



*Principal: Russell Denial*

The Government guidance says:

*'Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Those with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well in both primary and secondary school. School attendance will therefore be mandatory again from the beginning of the autumn term. This means from that point, the usual rules on school attendance will apply, including:*

- *parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age; schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence*
- *the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.' If your child remains under the care of a specialist health care professional you should discuss their care before returning to school in September and talk to your school about the situation. Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, they will not be penalised.*

I am delighted to announce that the school has been awarded the 'Leading Parent Partnership Award'. A range of people from the school community were interviewed and the following strengths were noted:

- Our transition processes between ALL key stages. Year 6 into 7 being described as 'a model of good practice'.
- Career Guidance for students across the age range
- The strong staff team that exists at our school
- The strong links that we have with the Chamber of Commerce.
- An excellent Parent Engagement Policy

Obtaining this award is a considerable achievement for us and we are extremely delighted. When I joined the school over four years ago, the school had been through some turbulent times. Looking back now and seeing the progress we have made is an absolute pleasure. This has been due to the incredible hard work of our staff and the support we have received from you. I would like to thank Mrs Adkins for leading the school in achieving this award.

I would like to end the final letter of the year with a huge thank you to 'PaSTA' – our Parents, Students and Teacher Association. They have worked so hard for us all in generating money for the benefit of our students. It is just a shame that their work this year was cut short slightly, but I cannot wait until some normality resumes and to work with this group soon.

Whatever your summer looks like whether it be a vacation or a staycation, please stay safe and look after those that are around you. The more we do now, the better it will be. In a world where have been told what we cannot do, let us think about now what we can do.

See you all soon.

Yours faithfully,



**Mr R Denial**  
**Principal**