

5 June 2020

Dear Year 10 Parent and Student

Provision of face-to-face working in school with members of staff

I sincerely hope that you are keeping well and, despite the difficult circumstances we are all in, are managing okay as well. We all appreciate that it has been a very demanding time. We are now, however, very much focussing on the future and our next steps and thus I wanted to communicate with you at the earliest possible opportunity about the plans we now have in place for working with Year 10 students this half-term in the lead up to the summer holiday period.

You will be aware that the government has asked schools to look to provide some face-to-face support for students in Year 10 and Year 12 from 15 June and prior to the summer holiday. It is clear from all that has been communicated that this does not mean that all Year 10 young people are expected back in school on 15 June to resume their regular timetable. The guidance to schools clearly directs that only small numbers of students are to be in school on any given day in order to receive some face-to-face support to supplement home learning and that this remote/home education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery for young people. It is also clear from the guidance that to promote social distancing and reduce expanding contacts too significantly that this nature of provision necessarily needs to be limited. We are very keen to engage in this face-to-face provision with our young people and have drawn up plans that we believe will support well-being and learning whilst also ensuring that we reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission as much as it is possible to do.

Currently the Facilities Management company are finalising site, building, cleaning and other safety matters. It is expected that this will all be addressed to the necessary standard by the end of next week. This being the case, the plan is as follows.

Week beginning 15 June 2020

Students will be invited into school on a specific day and a specific time for a one-to-one meeting with a member of staff. This meeting will focus on key matters such as well-being and engagement in home-learning activities. The member of staff will have feedback from subject teachers about the extent of home learning and progress made and further support required can be discussed. The aim of this meeting is to be highly supportive. We appreciate that this current situation and home learning has not proven easy for some of our young people. The meeting is an opportunity for sharing and for re-engaging. Students/parents will receive a letter explaining when they are to attend school, the time they are to report to school and the length of time they will be in school on that particular day. Access to the school site and the school building will be carefully managed and controlled. We have markings on the ground on the approach to our school building entrances and we will be asking students to queue, appropriately socially distanced, on arrival. They may be familiar with this type of approach if they have been to a supermarket recently. They will be escorted to their meeting and will see frequent reminders about social distancing and hygiene requirements as they go through the school. A set of guidance about conduct and social distancing will be sent to you with the communication about the timing of the meeting. Again, this is intended to be informative, supportive and reassuring, illustrating that appropriate measures have been taken in school and will be pursued for all members of our school community.

Week beginning 22 June 2020

Students will be invited into school on one day this week to work with subject teachers in English and their Option 1 subject. They will be in school from 08:40 to 12:40.

We are not running school lunch provision at this time nor will there be breaktime provision in the restaurant. Students will have a short break between their first session which will be English and their second session which will be their Option 1 subject. They may bring in a drink and a snack in disposable containers/packaging for their consumption only. They will be supervised at breaktime and will be in small groups maintaining social distancing.

Arrangements are being made to ensure appropriately enhanced cleaning of toilet facilities reflecting the need for infection control. Students must arrive on time and queue outside waiting to be escorted to their subject session. They will also need to follow all instruction and guidance about social distancing, where they can be during break time, how they move to their second session and also how they depart school. We cannot emphasise strongly enough how important it will be for students to be sensible and safe on their journey to and from school. It is appreciated that it will have been a very long time since they have seen their friends and peers but they must not travel to school together and must not socially congregate in large numbers in local recreation grounds/areas. They need to observe the easing of lockdown guidance and we ask parents to revisit these with their children to ensure their travel to and from school is safe. As we will only have a maximum of 25% of the year group in on any one day, then there will not be a large number of young people in school or travelling to and from school, but great care is still required and socially distancing is still essential if we are all to remain safe.

Week beginning 29 June 2020

Students will be asked to attend school on the same day this week for the same period of time, however on this occasion they will focus on Maths in session 1 and their Option 2 subject in session 2. All other arrangements, as cited above, pertain.

Week beginning 6 July 2020

Again, students will be asked to attend school on the same day this week for the same period of time. On this occasion they will focus on Science in session 1 and their Option 3 subject in session 2.

Week beginning 13 July 2020 (the last week of the academic year)

In light of the experience of the preceding four weeks, we will be organising further one-to-one sessions with students who clearly need additional support and guidance as they go into the summer holiday period. Our Year 10 young men and women will be commencing the final year of their GCSE programmes of study in September and therefore there is much to be done over the summer holiday period too to ensure they are all as well positioned as possible. The purpose of this face-to-face interaction over this half-term is to support and enable them with their home learning and examination preparation whilst also making sure they are thriving as much as possible in these very difficult circumstances.

More information will be shared in my next communication about:

- the date of the one-to-one meeting;
- the group students have been allocated to and therefore what day of the week they will need to attend school from week beginning 29 June;
- a protocol/guide to attending school and staying safe.

I also mentioned in my last weekly Bulletin home that in our 'Beechwood News' programme that there is sharing of some of the steps that have been taken to address safety and social distancing in school. Please look at this as it

will give you insight and hopefully reassurance as to how seriously we are taking this and how much we want to be able to work face-to-face with our young people again.

To conclude for now, I fully appreciate that parents and students may have concerns about attendance at school. If you would like to discuss these, please be in contact. I also fully appreciate that families may exercise their right not to participate at this time and I fully respect this. I do, however, urge you to seriously consider the offer we are making and the huge benefit it could have. So that we can plan most effectively with regards to final details, you will be contacted next week and asked to register your child for this face-to-face support or indicate if you do not intend to do so and why. We need families to make their decision and register. Those who register are signing up to the full programme as described above. Only those who have registered by Friday 12 June will be expected and admitted to school. For health and safety reasons we need absolute confirmation of the number of young people who will be engaging throughout this period.

I hope that this communication provides helpful clarity about the next steps and about what we wish to achieve together with our young people and their families.

Very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathleen Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light grey rectangular background.

Kathleen Higgins
Executive Headteacher