

Dear Parent

I'm sharing this formal letter to clarify **our current position on the return of children to school**. It should be read in conjunction with the attached letter from the Trust

I will start by saying that **we would all love to see our children back as soon as things are safe** and we will do all we can to work towards a partial re-opening as soon as it is possible for us to do so safely.

We will follow the advice and guidance from the government nationally, our Trust (DNEAT) locally and weigh that fully in terms of what we know about our own Academy situation.

Below I will outline a proposed stepped approach to the government's desire to have face to face contact with year 10 and 12 before the summer holidays and **NOT from June 1**

You will notice our approach suggests **we will go slowly and following review at each step**, we will only progress to the next step if we are confident we can do so safely. Each review will be made in the light of new advice, guidance and our subsequent update of our risk assessment

At this stage **this is just a proposal and I would be delighted to receive your feedback and thoughts on this**. To this end, once you have read the proposal, please follow this link

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=W8ZO2qGEd0-_AYQqaPv6mXiL78qjqohLgCyMiqfkAlxUMVdUUIE2VUZUNk9QNFRNR0NNM0pRUExYQS4u

to a feedback form and let us know your thoughts, concerns and questions regarding this proposal. We will be asking the students to comment after the half term break

Please note that **we are determined to fully involve you** all in this process as together we will find the solutions that suit our community best

Finally please note that this proposal assumes that for many, **the foreseeable future will remain at best blended attendance and home learning**. It is therefore key that I clarify that our expectations from the start of the summer term will become significantly higher. Our intention being that we will provide a high quality learning experience that follows your child's in academy timetable **and they will fully engage with all work set**. We will expect every teacher to appear live with each of their groups at least once per week. All assignments will be assessed though rubrics in TEAMS and you will receive a weekly summary of the work your child has been set - and what they have completed. Our reporting systems are advancing rapidly and we will begin to follow up on engagement with work much more rigorously in the term ahead as we believe it is now vital that children begin to develop good distance learning habits

Proposal for a stepped approach to the limited return of students in to the Academy in current year's 12 and 10 only - a discussion document for comment by parents and students

Step 1 - Stay as we are - Week beginning 1st June

Due to essential safety works - originally scheduled for Easter and only just possible now, we only have limited access to some parts of the building for two weeks so only Open Academy Keyworker Childcare will be available - as we have been running it since lockdown began. If you require a place please contact Mr Wilkinson as the half term begins

Step 2a - Yr 12 Individual Academic Conferences begin - Week beginning 8th June

We will be encouraging all current year 12 students to have a detailed discussion of their current learning progress and to receive individual guidance and support. They are expected to last around an hour, for those who feel able, these will be conducted in the academy by invitation - invitations will be shared during the first week back. If the student is unable to attend for shielding reasons either personally or for a member of their household, we will endeavour to hold the meeting online through TEAMS. This is however our first tentative steps at getting students back in to the academy

Please rest assured, every precaution will be taken to ensure students and staff will remain safe, including

- New hygiene routines on entry into the building,
- One way systems,
- Social distancing,
- Place identification,
- Screens,
- Signage
- Ventilation changes
- New behaviour expectations
- Social Bubble techniques
- Heightened Academy Hygiene and disinfection procedures
- Forehead Temperature scanning on entry

Please note that as we finalise our plans we will be happy to invite you in to see our new procedures and systems - and for those who cannot make it we will provide video tours of our new ways of working

Step 2b - Yr 10 Individual Academic Conferences begin - Week beginning 15th June

Next we will be encouraging all current year 10 students to have an in detail discussion of their current learning progress. Also expected to last around an hour, for those who feel able, these will be conducted in the academy by invitation - invitations will be shared during the second week back. Again if the student is unable to attend for shielding reasons either personally or for a member of their household, we will endeavour to hold the meeting online through TEAMS. This is however our next step in getting students back in to the academy

Step 3a Minimal partial re-open for year 12 - From Week Beginning 22nd June at the earliest - However depending upon national advice this date may well slip back

Year 12 will be invited to come and study in the futures area and level 2 classrooms which will be supervised at all times. Strict social distancing will be in place and we hope to have the full range of teachers available at different times throughout the week - on a surgery support ticket request type system. Students will be welcome to work within the building on our ICT systems and will receive limited teacher support as outlined above

Year 12 will be invited to come and study in the futures area and level 2 classrooms each day. Strict social distancing will be in place that will always be supervised. We hope to have the full range of teachers available at different times throughout the week providing subject-specific slots on a surgery support ticket request-type system. Outside of these support sessions, students will be welcome to work independently within the building on our ICT systems and as outlined above.

Step 3b Part time re-opening for year 10 - all to be offered 2 days per week - From Week Beginning 29th June Onwards

Year 10 will be invited in as half the year at one time - either as part of the Monday / Tuesday cohort or the Thursday / Friday cohort. Following strict protocols for hygiene, social distancing, fixed grouping and places and limited mobility around the Academy, each child will be assigned a group of between 8 and 10 students who will remain together for 2 days per week. They will have breaks together and classes together. Over the 2 days they will receive specialist teaching and assignment support from 4 teachers - English, Maths, Science + an Option teacher. The rest of the week they will continue working from home via TEAMS

- To facilitate the above we will ask all parents to sign up to a strict code of conduct, which will see any student breaching safety expectations immediately sent home - with their future attendance in jeopardy.
- We will be unable to run a canteen service but will provide packed lunches for those on free school meals - other students will need to bring in a drink and packed lunch
- Parents will be welcome to visit and view our procedures and set up for re-assurance if required after school and during the latter half of June
- Any plan will be subject to change depending upon government and trust advice
- I have included a flavour of the main changes that will be implemented but please rest assured, detailed risk assessed plans scrutinised by all stakeholders will be finalised and in operation before we will attempt to increase attending numbers
- We have successfully run Key worker childcare for half a term with no adverse consequences for either staff or students
- If the above stepped plan seems to be working safely, we have further steps planned for September and other year groups (logically next year's year 10 and 12 along with the new 11's and 13's and 7s) but this is getting ahead of ourselves for now!
- We will work in collaboration with the year team to ensure students will be confident learners in their peer groups

As I have indicated above, this is our initial plan for a stepped return and I am very keen to hear your views. Please complete the form identified below and I will summarise the feedback and identify our next steps when I send my first parent update after the half term break on the 5th June

You will find the questionnaire for feedback via this link

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=W8ZO2qGEEd0-_AYQqaPv6mXiL78qjqohLgCyMiqfkAlxUMVdUUIE2VUZUNk9QNFRNR0NNM0pRUEXyQS4u

I will finish by hoping you are all keeping well and staying safe.

If you need to talk to anyone - remember our Chaplain Mark is always ready to offer encouragement and support, and our assistant Heads of Year will be phoning soon.

Keep the feedback coming, I am always keen to hear how we are doing and it is a pleasure to share your positive feedback with the staff team.

Have a restful half term, be kind to yourselves and I look forward to connecting with you again soon.

Kindest regards

Jon Ford