



Information for Year 12

Wednesday 20th May 2020

Dear Year 12 Parents and Students.

I am now in a position to outline our plans, should we extend our opening next half term to children in Years R, 1, and 6, and provide some face to face support for Years 10 and 12, as per the Government guidance.

It is very important to emphasise that I am still not able to guarantee that extended opening will occur before the summer holidays. This is dependent on the following factors:

- Confirmation from the Government that the national picture is such that extended opening of schools can begin. This will be no earlier than 1st June, and we have been advised that the earliest we will know if 1st June has become a confirmed date is 28th May.
- Final assessment from myself and the Governing Body as to whether we are able to safely execute our risk assessment in order to maximise the safety and welfare of all pupils and staff. Please note that this assessment will not simply result in a yes or no to extended opening; it may be that we are able to open to these year groups but at a slightly delayed date to that announced by the Government.
- At the point at which a date is confirmed by the Government, a final audit of staffing levels to ensure that, based on the indicated numbers of pupils returning through a survey of parents, we can execute the plans safely. I have obviously already audited staffing very carefully and our proposed plans are based around this current knowledge, but this can alter due to different people needing to self-isolate at different times.

As you are probably aware, the focus from the Government at present is on getting as many Primary year groups back to school as possible, whilst providing some 'face to face' contact with Year 10s and 12s to support their continued remote learning. We explored many different models of how we would do this for Year 12, whilst also complying with the important guidance to ensure the students and teachers continued safety. One of the stumbling blocks I kept coming back to, was that students and teachers need to remain in set 'hubs' and not mix outside of these hubs. This means that we would not be able to have the students in to have support from each of their different subject teachers in each of their different class groups. Therefore, the only thing we could safely offer in school would be non specialist support in set groups, as everyone does a different combination of A Levels. Also, I am acutely aware that, whilst we have a small cohort, there is not an insignificant number of students in that cohort who would not be able to return yet, due to health concerns; I am very conscious of them being disadvantaged even if we were able to offer more specific subject support in school. Further to this, we have some of the A Level teachers themselves who would be unable to be in school next month due to a current need to self-isolate. Finally, we have the continued uncertainty over whether extended reopening could happen at all – due to the factors outlined above – and I think we are at a point where Year 12 deserve to know exactly what provision they will, not maybe, receive straight after half term.

Therefore, with all of this in mind, we have taken the decision that **Year 12 will not be physically returning to school in June**. However, regardless of the factors above, **from the 1st June we will be launching a more formal programme of live lessons for ALL A Level subjects**. This will ensure that students have 'face to face contact', albeit via a computer screen, with their teachers and peers in all subjects every week. Further remote learning will still be provided. Regardless of their own health needs or hesitations about returning to school just yet, EVERYONE will be able to engage with this support

fairly. If there is anyone that does not have access to the internet or a device in which they will be able to engage with these lessons, we will support you in ensuring this can happen. We haven't been able to offer this formally previously due to ever changing safeguarding concerns, teacher capacity and technological constraints. We have worked hard to address all of these issues, and now feel able to offer live lessons in all A Level subjects. *Please be aware that safeguarding constraints continue to limit this provision lower down the School.*

That is not to say that Year 12 will not make it into the building again at all before the summer – I sincerely hope that, once July arrives, we can get some proper face to face contact. I know that Mr Apsey is keen to say farewell to them all properly, Mr Angell is keen to say 'hello' and we all want to ensure that our students feel ready for the summer and of course returning properly, we hope, in September.

But for now, I hope you agree that putting in place, with no ifs, buts or maybes, a formal timetable of live lessons from the 1st June is the best thing we can do in the current circumstances.

Mr Apsey will be in touch over half term with specific information on how these lessons will work and to support anyone who is not used to using Microsoft Teams – the platform we will be using. But for now, here is the timetable that will begin – no ifs, buts or maybes – from 1st June. I will hopefully be popping i to some of the pastoral sessions too, to say hi!

Year 12 Microsoft Teams Lessons	
Monday 10.00am-11.30am	12C (Business, Physics, Psychology and Politics)
Tuesday 10.00am-11.30am	12E (Art, Biology, Film, PE)
Wednesday 10am-11.30am	12B (English and Maths)
Thursday 10am-11.30am	12D (Geography and History)
Friday 10am -11.30am	12A (DT, Chemistry and Sociology)
Friday 1pm-2.30pm	Pastoral Support

However, as members of the School community, it is still important that you have an understanding of what is happening elsewhere in the School. Separate letters have gone out to all the different year groups today, and you can find all of these in the 'Coronavirus Update' section of the website. What I have outlined in the plans is not how I ever envisaged or wanted a school experience to be. But these measures are absolutely necessary at present. They will also show you how impossible it would have been for Year 12 to have had any sort of beneficial subject teaching in school at present.

We will be in touch as soon as possible once the factors outlined at the start of this letter have been addressed. We are obviously constrained by the timings of further announcements from the Government. Whilst it won't directly affect Year 12 at present, we will ensure all parents are privy to any definite decisions from the School, and the sharing of our risk assessment.

As ever, I thank you for your continued support, patience and understanding in these testing times. We will continue to do everything we can to support the mental, physical and educational wellbeing of the whole school community whether they are in or out of the building.

Kind regards,

Mrs Louise New

Principal