

16 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Arrangements for students in Years 7, 8 and 9

I trust that this correspondence finds you and your family well.

It is with no small measure of disappointment that I am writing regarding the current situation – it is very clear that the likelihood of schools reopening in any recognisable form this side of the summer holidays is now very remote. The government's announcement has specified that the phased partial reopening of the school for face to face provision for the remainder of this academic year is to be focussed on Years 10 & 12. The continuing provision for learning in Years 7, 8 & 9 will remain via our remote learning protocols.

As a school we are constantly trying to develop and improve our provision for all students, and whilst we have designed and implemented our plan for the reopening to Years 10 & 12, we have also been reassessing the learning of Years 7, 8 & 9. We recognise that our remote learning system was put together at short notice to meet the needs of both students and staff but, as time has passed the level of support for you as parents and the engagement of our students needs to improve. We are committing to increase the frequency of interactive lessons and ensuring that every student has access to at least one of these per day. Many will experience more than this as many teachers already use this frequently, but it will remove the possibility of anyone not having at least one such opportunity daily.

Our weekly 'check-in' through Teams remains a vital communication channel, and one I know many students value very highly. Individual teachers are still communicating with their class members both in group and individual messages, and all work completed and returned is still being recognised through the awarding of achievement points. We are finding that students who are using Teams to engage with their subject teachers, asking questions about work set etc. are finding this hugely beneficial and I would encourage you to ensure your child is actively doing this.

We will continue to provide our provision for key workers to support with childcare at this difficult time, and if you require a place for your child please contact us to make arrangements. All students who qualify for free school meals should have received their vouchers by now, however if for any reason you have not received them or if you have any questions regarding free school meals, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support, feedback on our remote learning protocols and the many positive messages recognising our efforts to provide for all in our community.

Yours sincerely

Mr Neil Dunn  
Headteacher