

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We are approaching the end of a very strange half term and I am writing to bring you up to date with our plans for June and July. Since I wrote to you on 14th May, following the government's recent announcements concerning the phased wider opening of schools, we have been working hard to make sure that, when these plans are clarified, we will be able to meet government requirements and look after our students and staff safely.

We have carried out extensive risk assessments and have considered practices and protocols which will need to be adopted when this happens. The schools have been prepared to allow for a wider opening and to accommodate more students. We have arrangements in place in the event of a student or staff member becoming unwell during the school day, and have updated our behaviour policies to reflect these strange circumstances.

We have discussed our strategies with Governors, who have signed off our plans as appropriate and fit for purpose. The main points I need you to be aware of are as follows:

School Hub

We will be offering provision for vulnerable students and students who are children of key workers who cannot source alternative childcare from **Tuesday 2nd June at Solway and Beacon Hill**. School will be open from 9:00 – 3:00 and staffed by teaching assistants supported by a member of the senior leadership team at each school. Students accessing this provision will be in a separate area of the school from all other users to reduce the risk of infection. **Parents of students wishing to access this provision MUST email (not call) the school office by Wednesday 27th May with their requirements to allow us to put in place the correct staff ratios. For following weeks, requests for attendance at the Hub must be confirmed every Wednesday by contacting the school in this way. Please do not arrive at school expecting your child to be allowed in if you have not contacted the school by the previous Wednesday.**

There will be clear expectations about how students in school are expected to behave, and the conditions in which they will need to work. These are detailed in our risk assessments which are available on the school website by 28th May. Some important practical considerations:

- students should bring a packed lunch and water bottle (students will not be able to re-fill this during the day so bring plenty, especially if the weather is fine). Students entitled to FSM should book a packed lunch when confirming attendance as advised above
- students must bring all equipment they will need with them – we will not be able to provide pens and pencils for example
- students should wear a suitable top that can be regularly washed; school jumpers for preference (but not blazers). Trainers and casual trousers are allowed as the students will have regular breaks outside if the weather is good

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- please do not bring a phone to school; the office will be manned and parents can make contact with children if needed this way
- please do not wear jewellery, and long hair should be tied back

Primary support

We will be working with Silloth Primary and Richmond Hill to support provision for Year 6 students. This is likely to begin in the week beginning 8th June. Primary colleagues will lead this provision with support from our staff. Further information about this will be sent to primary parents from Silloth and Richmond Hill shortly.

Year 10

It is likely that from 15th June we will be offering some face to face provision for Year 10 students. This is not teaching as usual and will support rather than replace the current diet of remote learning, which will continue for the rest of term. Support is likely to take the form of 1:1 or 1:2 tutorials with a specialist member of staff on an appointment basis. Again, further details about this will be sent out after half term.

Next week is 'half term'. Both schools will be closed for the week, and everyone needs a break from remote learning and teaching. Staff will not be setting or marking work, and students and parents should not be working either. Safeguarding phone calls will continue. During the week, please stick to Covid19 guidelines; stay at home as much as possible and respect social distancing if you must leave your house. Please make sure your children do not go out with others.

Project work will be sent out again to years 7 - 10 from school from Monday 1st June. Students in Year 11 going onto sixth form can expect to continue to receive transition materials; students going on to FE colleges will be able to access a remote learning platform hosted by Carlisle College with preparation materials for September. Details of how this will work will be sent after half term.

In difficult times, please accept our reassurance that while safety and well being is our priority, we are working hard to make sure your children receive the best possible education in the circumstances. We are looking forward to seeing some of them for real next half term. The future for September remains unclear; we will of course let you know as soon as we do what that might look like. Thank you for your continuing patience and support. Please do not hesitate to contact me at school via email if you have any questions or concerns.

Yours sincerely



Judith Schafer
Executive Headteacher