

Dear Parent/Carer

### School response to the government's announcement

Thank you for the support and encouragement you are continuing to provide to your children with remote learning. I recognise the pressure everyone is under and would reiterate that the health and wellbeing of your family is the priority. I know children will be doing their best to complete as much of the work set as they can. Please reassure your children that we will support them to catch up any gaps in their learning when we return to a more normal school routine.

On Sunday the Prime Minister laid out a phased wider opening of schools over the coming weeks and months. This was rather vague and we did not receive more detailed guidance from the Department for Education until Monday evening. This has raised a number of questions and we are urgently seeking clarification on a range of issues along with other primary and secondary schools across the country.

However, the guidance does state:

*'From the week commencing 1 June 2020 at the earliest... we will ask secondary schools to offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 students who are due to take key exams next year, alongside the full time provision they are offering to priority groups. This will not be a return to full timetables or pupils back in school or college full time, rather some support to supplement pupils' remote education. In line with implementing protective measures and reducing contacts, schools and colleges should limit the attendance of the year 10 cohort in the school at any one time and to keep students in small groups as set out in our guidance.'*

I recognise that there will be mixed feelings about this within our school community. Children who are clinically extremely vulnerable due to a pre-existing medical condition are not expected to attend school. Those who are clinically vulnerable should seek medical advice. It is also important to point out that no action will be taken where parents choose not to send their children into school at this time.

The guidance for parents and carers about the wider opening of schools can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-andcarers>

In response to the government guidance we will now start to undertake a full risk assessment and consider what practises and procedures will need to be adopted to maintain the safety of our students, staff and the wider school community. We have been told that there will be more detailed government guidance to follow and that this will help with the process.

I would also emphasize that face-to-face support is not 'teaching as usual' and that we will continue with remote learning for the rest of this term. At this time we don't anticipate that students in Years 7, 8 or 9 will return to school before September. The final strategy will be discussed and agreed with Governors prior to any of our Year 10 students returning to school for face-to-face support, and this will be shared with you in due course.

Thank you for your support in this unprecedented situation and please be reassured that our priority is the health, safety and welfare of everyone.

Yours sincerely



Judith Schafer, Executive Head



David Davidson, Chair of Governors