



1st June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Year 10 Students

I do hope that you have been able to enjoy the half term break and that you and your families remain safe and well.

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday 24th May, the guidance for secondary schools has been published. I would like to provide you with an update on the College's response to this, as of 15th June.

The government *'are asking secondary schools to offer face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 and Year 12 pupils, **which should remain the predominant mode of education during this term for pupils in these year groups**'*.

The government's *'assessment, based on the latest scientific and medical advice, is that we need to continue to control the numbers attending school to reduce the risk of increasing transmission. Therefore, schools are able to have a quarter of the Year 10 and Year 12 cohort (for schools with sixth forms) in school at any one time'*.

The guidance is clear that schools should 'provide some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 and Year 12 pupils, **with a clear expectation that remote education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery for these year groups and that this should be of high quality**'.

The guidance is designed to give secondary schools the flexibility to 'implement face-to-face support for Year 10 and Year 12 pupils in the way that best suits their circumstances, including considerations around staff availability and workload. It is up to schools to decide how they want to use face-to-face support in the best interests of their pupils e.g. additional pastoral support, academic support, practical support, or a combination of these'.

We know that there may be some pupils who would particularly benefit from onsite face-to-face support, such as those pupils who have not been engaging in remote education for a number of reasons.

In order to assess and plan for the remote and on-site needs of our students from 15th June, every Year 10 student will be asked to complete an online questionnaire about each of their subjects. **It is extremely important that students answer these questionnaires as honestly as possible.** These will be emailed to your child's school email address, which they can access via the school website (top right hand corner). **If your child has forgotten their password, please contact the College reception for a password reset.** Parents will be contacted once the questionnaires have been released.

At the same time, Mr Rothery will be monitoring students' progress on Show My Homework and the responses from students to his SMH message that was posted on the 'notice board' prior to half term. This will give Mr Rothery an understanding of how his year group is coping with remote learning and what further pastoral support on-site from the 15th June can be offered.

Prior to any on-site provision, I would like to reassure you that a comprehensive **Risk Assessment** will be carried out in line with government advice and a set of **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)** will be shared with all parents, which will outline in detail how we will keep students and staff in College safe.

In my previous correspondence, we raised concerns about inherent privacy and possible safeguarding issues with online lessons and that as a College we needed to be confident that our students and staff would be safe online, if we took this approach in the future. The College has been working hard with our ICT managed service and I am pleased to say that moving forwards the College is planning to deliver online subject specific lessons for all Year 10 students from 15th June, in addition to the work being submitted via show my homework.

Over the next two weeks, the College will be installing the required ICT software and staff training and student guidance will be in place, so that all students can access and receive at least one face-to-face online lesson per week from each of their subjects.

This is a new way of working for us all and we are working quickly to adapt to the current situation, producing new materials and ways of teaching. The College will be sending out further guidance and advice in the coming days and weeks as we lead up to the 15th June. I am sure that you may have many questions. However, can I please ask that you bear with us as we get further details and information out to you.

Our best wishes



Dawn White
Principal



Adam Rothery
Year Leader for Year 10