



18th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Sir Harry Smith Community College Update

I do hope that you and your families remain safe and well.

All students should now have benefited from the opportunity to receive feedback from their class teachers and pose any questions they have about work set via Show My Homework. You should also have received two Year Leader Bulletins to support home learning from our pastoral support team. I do hope that these have been helpful in terms of motivation for home learning and most importantly your child's well-being. Our pastoral team will be offering additional support over the coming weeks to develop further our remote contact with students.

There has been much in the press lately following the Government's announcement last week for a phased reopening of primary schools, beginning with Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 on Monday 1st June. This plan also sets out an ambition to allow secondary schools, sixth forms and further education colleges to open their doors to offer some 'face-to-face' sessions with Year 10 and Year 12 pupils, to supplement the remote education of these students who are due to take key exams next year, alongside the full time provision they are offering to priority groups.

The Government have stated that:

'These two year groups have been prioritised because they are preparing for key examinations next year, and are most at risk of falling behind due to time out of school or college. 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. We will be consulting with sector representatives over the coming week in order to develop some suggested models to demonstrate how this could operate, which will be published along with further guidance for secondary schools in the coming weeks.'

There has been much discussion in the education community this last week as to what "some face to face support" looks like in practice. In addition, we will need to ensure that regulations regarding social distancing can be followed. Once we have a clearer picture of what we can offer next half term we will then contact families of Year 10 and 12 students. The safety of students and staff will be our priority.

It is also important to understand that the Government will only make the final decision on whether to press ahead with the reopening of schools when it reviews the latest scientific evidence on 28th May, and that if the evidence does not support this decision at that time, it will be delayed.

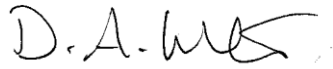
I look forward to seeing our students return to school as soon as they are able to, and we are working hard to ensure everything is ready and safe in the way that we feel is best for our school and community.

For now, all students will stay at home for the time being, unless their parents/carers are classified as 'key workers' and require the College to care for their child.

Once more, I would like to thank you all for the positive way in which you have approached home schooling since we closed our doors. I recognise that this has been hard for many people and you have had to juggle personal and work commitments to adapt to this period. Thank you for everything you are doing.

In the meantime, please stay safe and take care.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D.A. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a stylized "A".

Dawn White
Principal