



Ref: 19-20-341

20 May 2020

TO PARENTS/CARERS OF YEAR 10 PUPILS

Dear Parent/Carer

Update Following Year 10 Survey

Thank you for such a swift response to our survey sent out last week. We wanted to engage with you as early in the process as possible, following the Government's changed guidance in order to ensure you are part of our planning process moving forwards.

Many of you expressed your anxiety over your child returning to school. Some of you articulated your preference for core curriculum content and were keen for us to explore a 'core subjects offer.' However, whilst identifying the importance of a 'core subject offer' some of you appropriately questioned the logistics and meaningfulness of such an offer whilst applying the social distancing measures. For example, how would we group pupils in a single group for all three core subjects; how would we determine the 'make up' of the pupil group; the subsequent pitch and pace of work taught; the availability of teachers for each group, who may never have taught the pupils allocated to them; and would this lead to anxiety being in a new group in such already challenging circumstances.

Others felt the second approach of small group mentoring meetings to be potentially more beneficial and were keen for us to recognise the trauma and isolation that pupils are feeling during the extended period of lockdown and focus on a 'recovery curriculum' element to returning to school.

Our developments and discussions have moved at some pace and we will be able to distribute full guidance to you before the end of this week. In light of the feedback, we have focussed on the term 'meaningful' as far as considering how our provision changes to enable greater support for our Year 10 pupils. Ahead of the full guidance you will receive before the end of this week, I can confirm that:

- Staff will deliver pre-recorded or live video input for part of their Year 10 lesson/learning session as of the week beginning 01 June 2020.
- There will be feedback for pupils and an expectation on pupils to submit work set, enabling meaningful curriculum content to be delivered by subject specialists to their own teaching groups in all subject areas. This will also enable teachers to re-connect with the pupils in their own specific teaching groups and provide pupils with feedback and encouragement around the GCSE curriculum content.
- Pupils will follow their existing school timetable.
- There will be an online platform in place (currently being developed internally by our IT team) to enable a single point of access. This will work alongside ClassCharts, the existing platform that pupils, parents, carers and staff are used to. Teachers (and our pupils) will require training for this to successfully take place and for safeguarding concerns to be addressed. This staff training will happen (virtually) on Monday 01 June 2020 after half term.

Following your feedback, in addition to a significant increase in curriculum content offer, we would like to continue to focus on the wellbeing and welfare of our pupils with a more personalised approach around developing a 'recovery curriculum' for pupils.

As of the week beginning 01 June 2020, I can confirm that:



2

20 May 2020

TO PARENTS/CARERS OF ALL YEAR 10 PUPILS

- Your child can expect to have a scheduled (up to) 10-minute virtual live video one to one 'check in' with their tutor (or another member of staff if the tutor is not available) in order to discuss their experience and progress in general and specifically with 'home learning' during lockdown to date. Mrs Seve (Head of Year) is working closely with the Year 10 tutor team and Mrs Potts (Assistant Headteacher) to ensure a clear focus for this mentoring conversation and specific, follow-up channels. A focus on well-being remains crucial in these challenging times and we feel that tutors beginning to re-connect with their tutees in a personalised way should help ease some anxieties that pupils may have prior to returning to school.
- These one-to-one scheduled check ins will happen on Tuesday 02 June 2020 and Wednesday 03 June 2020. Further information will follow about the logistics as to how these will take place. These are pupil focussed appointments rather than a 'parents' evening' style opportunity.

Finally, for your reassurance we have discussed and debated at length about asking pupils for their opinion and what they feel would be most beneficial as 'some face to face contact to supplement remote learning for Year 10.' Our concern is that providing a survey to the entire year group may lead to frustration when their views are deemed (by them) not to be taken into consideration and a different course of action taken. We hope that by adopting the two-pronged approach as identified above, we are responding to both parents'/carers' and pupils' feedback that we have received, identifying curriculum content and connectedness along with structure, routine and feedback as key priorities through this next phase. With the opportunity for a one-to-one catch up with their tutor in the next two weeks, there will of course be opportunity for our pupils to give specific feedback at this time.

I would like to be clear at this point that this is not necessarily a plan that will remain the same for the remainder of the academic year. We will review it weekly in light of any Government updates and feedback. At this current time, we believe this plan responds to feedback, gives our pupils greater direct teacher and curriculum content plus the opportunity to re-connect and, importantly, considers the safety, health, welfare and wellbeing of our pupils, their families, our staff and their families as paramount during this global pandemic at this specific time.

With very thanks in anticipation of your continued support. You will be in receipt of full guidance before the end of this week

Yours sincerely

Mrs G Harrison-Jones
Headteacher