



Ashton
Community
Science
College

Headteacher: Miss S Asquith BA Hons, MA, NPQH

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'a school to be proud of'

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22nd May 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

Re: possible reopening of school to more students in June

The May half term draws to a close and it has been a strange half term for us all, with continued school closure to all but a very small number of students. I have been asked by a number of parents if we will be setting work and expecting students to complete it over half term, and the answer to that is no. We have no expectation that children will be doing school work during half term week, but if they wish to use this time to undertake individual projects, catch up on things they have fallen behind with, learn a new skill, then we will of course be pleased to hear about that. Work can be uploaded to Challenge@ashtoncsc.com

You will have seen in the news that secondary schools may partially reopen on 1 June to year 10 students, if it is safe to do so. The guidance does not expect schools to offer year 10 students full time provision, but to put in place something which allows them to get some face-to-face contact with teachers to support their home learning.

At this moment in time, we are **not** in a position to open because we do not have sufficient resources in place to meet the health and safety requirements for large numbers. We are doing everything we can to work towards some form of opening for year 10 students in the coming weeks, but I cannot tell you when that will be because accessibility to some of the resources we require is beyond my control.

We are still providing home learning via SMHW and paper copies on request for years 7 - 10 and after half term, students should continue to check their accounts each day to pick up work that has been set. Teachers will continue to set and monitor work and they are responding to student queries via SMHW. We are making pastoral contact with all our families on a regular basis and the school website has a number of resources to support you, including learning and emotional well-being resources. We also update our Facebook and Instagram pages regularly so you might wish to follow those if you don't currently.

Our year 11 students would have been well underway with their GCSEs now and so we will not set work for them because their GCSE courses have finished. Instead, we have placed a number of resources on the website that may be helpful to them as they plan their next steps. To remind you, we are still planning on holding a year 11 prom, to celebrate their time at Ashton, at some point in the future. We await further guidance from the government on when large social gatherings will be permitted and will confirm a date with parents and year 11 students when we have that information.



We are in the process of creating a detailed action plan that we'll share with you as soon as possible so you know what the school's reopening will look like in practice. This plan will follow all health and safety guidelines, and include precautionary measures such as:

- Limiting contact and ensuring social distancing measures are in place
- Staggering face to face meeting times
- Increased cleaning
- Keeping pupils and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home

I want to reiterate my earlier reassurance that there is no pressure on any student to come to school once we begin a partial opening to year 10. We'll keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible, so you and your child can make an informed decision about whether to come in.

In the meantime, the school is still open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of front line workers.

Have a lovely half term and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Asquith". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Miss S Asquith
Headteacher