

Dear parent / carer

Thank you for being so patient with us as we have taken the time needed to carefully plan our phased return of children to school. No doubt you will have seen some of the local and national press coverage on this issue and of the concerns raised by various groups, but also of the strong sense of support for children returning to schools in a phased and safe way.

Much detailed discussion has taken place in recent days and the position taken by the academy and FCAT is that Year 10 should begin the return to school in the week beginning June 8th. The government's ambition of June 1st has proved to be too soon for us to make all the necessary arrangements and to consult on and complete all the required Health and Safety risk assessments.

We will be reopening for Year 10 only, whilst continuing to run the vulnerable and key worker provision. Monday 8th June will be a staff training day and then for the following four days students will be invited in for a one day assimilation and training day, the purpose of which is to get them ready for the fuller return to learning in the week beginning June 15th. For Year 10 we will be offering provision for half year groups at any given time thereafter. The finer details will reach you in the week beginning June 1st.

Our approach will be to work with your child/children in 'bubbles'. These will be defined groups that will not change and will have the same attached staff. This will help secure a COVID safe learning environment. Again, more details on all the above will follow in the week after half term.

I will also be sending out a survey for all Year 10 families to complete in order for us to ascertain from you as parents and carers, whether or not you will be sending your child back into school. Please complete the form so that we can plan accordingly.

Finally, it is very important to know that we will continue with all the support for the children at home and not initially identified for the phased return. It is critically important that they continue to study and to learn in the home environment and we will continue to support this process fully.

My thanks go to you for your continued support in these very difficult times,

*John Woods
Headteacher*