June 5<sup>th</sup> 2020



# Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you were able to enjoy something of the lovely weather we had over half term.

#### **Current situation in school**

As you will be aware it is the Government's intention that up to 25% of Year 10 at a time are back in school from June 15<sup>th</sup>. We have made arrangements for that which have been approved by the Governors and I have shared an extensive plan with those of you who are parents of students in Year 10 - If you have not already done so please do remember to let us know if your Year 10 son or daughter will be returning by following the link in the letter. We saw over half term however that plans for a return of primary school children on June 1<sup>st</sup> were halted in Lancashire by the Local Authority and so we await to be guided by local public health officials.

The number of key worker/vulnerable children has increased and we now have around 20 students in each day.

Remote learning continues as the main form of learning for all our students. If your son or daughter does not have access to a computer at home and has been receiving a printed work pack over the past few months, please make sure you have collected the latest pack from school. Please do remind your sons and daughters to contact their teachers and ask for help if they need it, to send work back so they can receive feedback and not to worry about getting everything completed. We are now trialling the use of Microsoft Teams for some recorded lessons for Years 9 and 10.

I have asked mentors to make further contact with all their mentees over the next couple of weeks as a welfare check.

There has as yet been no guidance from the Government regarding what will happen in September.

#### **Policies**

The Governing Body held a meeting by Zoom on Wednesday evening and approved updated versions of four policies which will be put on the website next week. The policies are:

- Special Educational Needs Policy and Information Report
- Word Processing Policy
- Food and Drink Policy
- Uniform Policy

The change to the uniform policy is that it does now say 'skirts worn above the knee are not acceptable'. The school skirt from September is knife pleated with a badge on the waist. All the new Year 7 wearing a skirt will be expected to have the new skirt and it will be required in other years as skirts are replaced.

## **School Trips**

Unfortunately the school travel company with which we arranged the Paris trip for October has not survived the pandemic and so this trip will not now go ahead. The matter is in the hands of our insurers and we will notify the families of those who were signed up for the trip when we have further information about refunds.

The Year 7 Bushcraft trip this July has now been officially cancelled and we should receive a full refund from the travel company. It will take around 30 days after the date of the trip to receive the money and this will be returned to families as soon as possible after that.

## **Counselling Support**

ACE Counselling (Achieve, Change and Engagement) is supplementing its usual service with a seven day a week 10am – 10pm confidential phone line and e-mail address for any young person aged between 11 and 25 in Fylde, Wyre and Lancaster Districts who is experiencing emotional distress and would like someone to talk to or be able to email one of their emotional health workers. The phone number is 0800 144 8461 and the e-mail is <a href="mailto:contact@a-c-e.org.uk">contact@a-c-e.org.uk</a>

Please see the flyers attached to this letter for further information and also 2 roles they are looking to recruit to.

# Self harm

There is also a flyer from Lancashire Mind regarding self harm.

With best wishes

**Andrew Waller** 

Headteacher