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3rd June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your families well and enjoying some greater freedom now lockdown measures are easing. It is of course a good thing to feel a sense of normality returning to life, but it is important to remember that we must still proceed with extreme caution as we respond as a school to our responsibilities. Further to the government's announcement last week regarding the reopening of schools for Year 10 students from the 15th June, we are now in a position to inform you of our outline plans. We have worked hard over the past couple of weeks to draw up risk assessments in conjunction with our legal team at the Bay Learning Trust to ensure we are fully prepared to offer a safe and secure environment for our young people. This remains our top priority. I can also reassure you that we are closely following guidance being given by the Local Authority on the safe opening of schools.

The government has asked us 'to offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 students'. It is important to note that remote learning remains the main form of education for all pupils at this stage and that time in school for Year 10 pupils will be very limited. We will of course use this time to deliver some new subject content, but we will also work with students to overcome any barriers to learning remotely that they have encountered during this difficult time. Days when pupils are not in school should be spent concentrating on remote learning as has been the case over the past 10 weeks. Staff will continue to set this work and integrate the school input into this remote learning as far as possible.

In line with the government guidance, we will initially be inviting each pupil into school once per week for a morning school session. This will last from 9.30am-12.45pm and will comprise 3 one hour-long lessons and a short break. A maximum of 30 pupils will be in school at any one time and they will be split into classes of no more than ten. We will begin with our core subjects (English, maths and science) and some PSHE input. Pupils will be supervised during their short break and will remain in their groups of ten or less. They will be encouraged to maintain social distancing measures at all times via staff supervision, spaced seating, floor markings and signage. You will appreciate that we will rely heavily on the cooperation of all pupils to ensure social distancing can be maintained. I am confident that we can count on your assistance in stressing the importance of this to your children. We will also be making adjustments to our uniform policy and behaviour policy to accommodate the new circumstances. New hygiene measures in school will be adopted such as increased handwashing and we would encourage our pupils to avoid public transport where possible on their journey to school. If this is not feasible, the social distancing measures adopted by bus companies must be adhered to.

We want to assure you that we are taking all necessary steps to make school as safe as it can be for your child. However, I recognise that some of you may not wish for your child to attend school at this time. For each of you this will be a very personal decision and I would like you to know that the school will support you with whatever you decide is best for you and your family. I should also inform you that attendance will not be compulsory, and it remains your choice whether you send you child into school. Children who are not in school should continue as normal with their home learning via Class Charts as this will continue to be set by teachers.

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Principal: Dr N Walmsley

To help us with our planning, it would be extremely useful to know at this stage if you intend to send your child back to school when wider opening takes place. I am therefore asking all parents of Year 10 pupils to <u>please click here and</u> <u>fill in this short form</u>. It is important that all parents fill in this form, whether you intend to send your child to school or not. I realise that some of you may as yet be undecided. If this is the case, I would ask you to fill in the questionnaire with the most likely scenario. I would appreciate a quick response by 3pm on Thursday 4th June to allow us to proceed with planning.

Once we have the responses from the questionnaire, we will be able to finalise the details of our provision. If you have indicated on the questionnaire that you wish for your child to attend school, we will be in touch next week to let you know which morning your child will be in school and to give you more information about the provision itself.

If you have any questions about any of the above, please contact main school reception during normal school hours. In the meantime, I wish you all well and I will be in touch soon with updates about the wider provision.

Yours sincerely,

N.M. N.

Dr N Walmsley

