



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave · Garstang · Lancashire · PR3 1YE · Tel: 01995 603226 · Email:
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21st May 2020

Dear Year 10 parent / carer

Firstly, I can only apologise for the fact that you have been waiting, patiently, wondering what is going on in terms of a Year 10 return after half term. I wish I could give you, even now, a definitive plan, but unfortunately I cannot. This is not through lack of endeavour, but due to lack of any clear guidance, making planning exceptionally difficult.

No detailed plans can sensibly be made until the Government publishes the Secondary equivalent of the detailed 'Planning For Primary Schools'. All decisions are predicated on the announcements to be made on May 28th by Central Government regarding the current stage of the pandemic in Britain.

However, much discussion has taken place in recent days and the position we are almost certainly taking is that specific cohorts of children should begin their return to school in the week commencing **June 8th**. The government's ambition of June 1st has proved to be too soon for us to complete all the necessary plans, site arrangements and Health and Safety arrangements.

Therefore, we will aim to open for Year 10 in the week beginning Monday 8th June. The Monday will be a staff training day and students will then be invited in for their own training over the course of the rest of the week, the purpose of which is to get staff and children ready for the fuller return to learning in the week beginning June 15th.

It is our intention to make provision for half year groups at any given time thereafter. I will communicate more information in the week beginning June 1st, if not before.

On their return, we aim to facilitate support for the virtual learning curriculum that students are currently following and, if possible, offer some additional teaching of core subjects. Students will be placed in small defined groups known as 'bubbles' that will not change and will have the same attached staff. This will help to secure a COVID safe learning environment. We will aim to have children in classes of a maximum of 10 – not necessarily friends or classmates - with one adult at a time, and a restricted number of adults in total – this will constitute their 'bubble' which they will remain in when in school, for the foreseeable future.

The intention is that the 'bubble' will have its own classroom, its own specified toilet (gender neutral and one person only to use at one time – NOT during lesson time), and its own allocated 'fresh air space' for socially distanced lunchtimes. ANY mixing between 'bubbles' in school time will not be allowed. Again, more details on all the above will follow in the week after half term, including a revised behaviour policy to reflect the importance of these measures.

Other than the initial 'assimilation and training days' during the first week, when fewer children will be in, we intend for the day length to be very similar to currently.

It is important to stress that the current provision for vulnerable children and children of key workers will continue as it has operated so far and is unaffected by these additional plans.



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However, Year 10 children who access this provision will, necessarily, remain in the provision to avoid the mixing of 'bubbles' during the week.

Finally, it is very important to note, that we will endeavour to continue with the support for children working at home, either in Year 10 and not in coming in to school (due to shielding an extremely vulnerable relative for example – there is no plan for sanctions for those unable to attend), or in year groups other than Year 10. It is critically important that they continue to study and to learn in their home environment and we will continue to do our very best to maintain the amazing level of support we are currently providing.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Ashcroft
Headteacher