

19th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all still managing to keep well and safe in these unprecedented times.

You will be aware that the government is asking secondary schools to begin to open to Year 10 and Year 12 students. The earliest that this will happen is 1st June. There has been much guidance available to us as an academy from the Department for Education, our Multi-Academy Trust and the Local Authority about risk assessments and safety measures and as we prepare to reopen, I want to reassure you that safety is paramount in our planning.

Secondary schools have rightly been given a lot of freedom in planning exactly when and to whom they should reopen. After careful consideration we are planning to open to Year 12 only on a limited version of their timetable from 9.30am on Monday 1st June 2020. The plan moving beyond this point is to aim to open for Year 10 students for one day per week per student from Monday 8th June 2020. This is a careful and gradual opening strategy for these two year groups that we feel will work best in our setting. I must stress that if government advice changes or we have concerns about being able to put appropriate safety measures in place at any point then we will need to change these plans, possibly at short notice. Please keep a close eye on texts, social media and our website in the coming week or so.

For Year 12 students, they will receive a timetable by email by the end of this week. It will consist of two sessions per day (AM 9.30-11.30 and PM 12.45-2.45) starting, at the earliest, on Monday 1st June. Currently we will not be able to run all subjects and sessions but those that do run will be led by subject specialists. Each student will be able to see when their subjects are running and will only need to attend for those sessions. Each day will start with a student briefing about safety measures and social distancing to minimise risk wherever possible. However, it will remain the case that if you do not wish to send your child to school, please just let us know. There will be no penalisation for non-attendance in these circumstances as we begin to reopen.

For Year 10 students, more detail will be provided in due course. If government advice remains that we should begin to reopen and if all goes well from 1st June, then we will plan to have each student in school for one day per week initially from 8th June. Students will be in small groups of 10-15 which they will need to stay in all day, even during social times and all advice on social distancing in schools will be followed. I'm afraid it will not be possible to factor in friendships or personal preferences when students are allocated to groups. As with Year 12 students, if you do not wish to send your child to school, please just let us know. There will be no penalisation for non-attendance in these circumstances as we begin to reopen.

In the meantime, teachers will continue to set work via Show My homework for students in all year groups to complete at home. I would like to take this opportunity to stress that students should complete what they can in a balanced way and try not to worry or overwork themselves. Also, can you please encourage them to keep in touch with their tutors weekly so we can maintain relationships and see how everyone is getting on. The school will continue to provide education for children of key workers and those identified as vulnerable as we have done since the academy closed on 20th March.

I know there may be lots of further questions about the process of reopening and more detail will follow. If you have any concerns please contact the academy in the usual way. Reception will be manned over half term as well as for the rest of this week. Please also see this guidance for parents from the Department for Education <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>.

Thank you for your continued support. Take care and we hope to see you all soon.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa McVeigh', written in a cursive style.

Lisa McVeigh
Principal