



25th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you are all keeping well and safe as we all start to adjust to what is being called 'the new normal'.

Since my last update to all parents last month quite a lot has changed. Firstly, we reopened our doors to year 12 students on 15th June. I am proud to say that we have managed to put on most of our A Level subjects so that students have been enjoying lessons with subject staff rather than experiencing a purely pastoral input. The students have been working excellently and seem relieved to be able to be taught their A Level subjects at school once again.

Secondly, just this week we have reopened to year 10 students so they can each attend one day per week for maths, English and PE lessons. They have arrived in impeccable uniform, ready to work hard and it has been absolutely fantastic to see them. I think it is fair to say that, although some may not admit it out loud, the students missed us as much as we did them! All students have also responded brilliantly to the huge number of new rules they need to follow in order to keep us all safe.

In the background, we have been working hard to continue to provide work, guidance and wellbeing advice to all our students. The main way we have done this has been through Show My Homework but there have also been some online lessons in maths and science for example. Starting next week all students in years 7 to 9 will have a face to face lesson with their subject teachers where they will be supported to reflect on how their work in that subject has gone during lock down. We know that students will have some gaps in their knowledge and things they will not feel as confident with than if they were taught it in a normal lesson at school. We also know that for a variety of reasons working from home and coping with living through a pandemic has not always been easy and some students may not have been able to do as much work as they might have liked to. As explained in my last letter this is totally understood by all of us at the academy. The face to face sessions are to help teachers understand where their groups are at and to support planning for next year rather than to scrutinise our students' efforts. Teachers are very much looking forward to seeing their students again, albeit through a screen.

With regard to September, we await more details from the government about how we can open for all students safely. This detail is promised to be with schools by the end of next week. Rest assured that as soon as we receive the guidance we will work as quickly as possible to put our own plans into place and I will aim to write to you before the end of term so you are clear about what will happen at the start of the autumn term.

Thanks again for your continued support. Take care and hope to see you all soon.

Yours faithfully

Lisa McVeigh
Principal