

Parental Update

Dear Parent / Carer

We are aware of some members of our St Cuthbert's community who have lost loved ones at this time. As always our thoughts and prayers are with them. Indeed our thoughts and prayers are with you all at this time and we look forward to the time we can all meet again.

You will have no doubt have heard of the government's recent announcement that schools in England are to begin a partial re-opening to some students. The only details we have so far with regards to Secondary schools is that we must provide some face to face contact with year 10's to support their work from home. The government also clarify this does not mean Year 10s are returning to school on a full timetable. There is also a distinct possibility that the guidance on this matter will change if the scientific advice changes. It may well be that there is no phased return in June for any students. We will inform everyone as soon as we become aware of any changes in the guidance.

At present we are working with the Local Authority and other partners on exactly what this means in terms of some students in Year 10 returning to school. What it definitely doesn't mean is that Year 10 are simply coming back in June and picking up from where they left off. This is simply not possible with the current situation and the requirements to ensure everyone is safe and risks are kept to a minimum.

We appreciate that for many parents this is a difficult decision. If you consider that it is in the best interests of your child to remain at home until September we fully understand and no action would be taken against the parents of any year 10 students if this was the decision you made. The work we are setting will all be done at home by all students.

We will contact all parents no later than Friday 22nd May to confirm exactly what the plans are from June 1st. By that time we will have some clarification from the government and the Local Authority. In that communication we will be informing all students and parents in all year groups of the plans for their education between then and September.

We have reviewed our provision of online learning and consulted parents. While most are happy with what we have been doing so far, we are going to make some changes to improve that provision and begin the process of getting students ready to start their school lives again next academic year. Further details of this will follow but as of Monday 18th May there will no longer be daily work set for each lesson. Next week we would like all of our students to engage in our reading week. Please see attached for details. The work set in the final Half Term will focus on the key knowledge and skills that students in all year groups require to be successful in each subject area next year. In September upon their return, all students will be assessed in each subject to allow their teacher to clearly identify any areas which students are secure in and which areas they need further support in. The home learning from June 1st will prepare your child for this crucial assessment.

Year 10 students and their parents will also be interested to know that the exam results submitted for your option subjects will be counted by the government in the same way that they are being for Year 11 students. We cannot tell you what these grades are and they may be subject to some change. You will receive them as planned on exam results day in August.

We continue to keep you all in our thoughts and prayers and look forward to the day when we can all meet again.

All the very best

D. Shields