



Friday, 05 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I wanted to write an update you on the wider opening of school for Year 10 and Sixth Form students.

As you will be aware the government set a target date of 15th June for wider opening but has left the decision in the hands of schools and local authorities as to whether this can be achieved safely.

We believe that 15th June is too soon to open the school more widely, although we have done a great deal of risk assessment work to put the school in the most secure position for our students and staff. We do hope to open this term for Year 10 students on rotation and also for sixth form students and we are working towards the timetable shown below;

Week of June 15th - 19th

All Year 10 and Year 12 students and parents will receive either an extended telephone call or video conference with their tutor or one of their subject teachers. The purpose of the phone call is to discuss how work has been progressing, to explain the new school arrangements with regards to procedures, rooms and groups for teaching. A vital part of this conversation will be the school's arrangement for social distancing of students and staff, as this must be understood by students returning.

Week of June 22nd - 26th

We expect to open for groups of Y10 students on rotation. Students will be placed into 'pods' of 6 per classroom and we will have 4 pods in school each day. They will be taught by a 'college' group of teachers to minimize cross contact. We will have a staggered start time for pods and they will be in school for 3.5 hours once a week. It is possible that your child will not be taught by the subject teacher that normally appears on their timetable and we will in the first instance be concentrating on English, Mathematics, Science and a project based approach to develop their skills. We will develop this later to include some options work.

Lessons will last one hour in length and we have allowed 30 minutes of break and social time for students within their pod. Full details of the groups, rooms, staggered timings and arrangements for the school day will be published by Friday 12th June along with an FAQ sheet featuring many of the questions that parents have already asked us. This is so that parents will be fully aware of arrangements before the teacher/tutor conversation from 15th June.

To support Y12 students we expect to introduce a program of online tutorials during this week to support the work that has been set during school closure. More details of this schedule will be published near the end of next week.

Headteacher: Mr. A. Roll

School Road, Rubery, Birmingham B45 9EL

Tel: 0121 453 5211 Email: office@waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk

www.waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk



Many parents have asked about the risk assessments undertaken to ensure the school can be opened safely. The model we have used has been checked by our legal team at Browne Jacobson, a Birmingham Law Firm and endorsed by their health and safety advisers as best practice. I will make the relevant sections of the risk assessment available to parents on the website Friday 12th June, again in order to help parents to decide about children returning.

The decision to reopen the school lies with the School Governing Body. They will be presented with the full risk assessments before considering any final decision.

We hope you can understand that we cannot deliver the same sort of education we do when the school is fully open, but your children will not miss out by being in school at the moment. We have tried to keep everyone's workloads – both pupils coming into school and those learning at home – comparable, appropriate and realistic during this turbulent period.

Please do not worry about your children getting behind with learning. Everyone is in the same boat and, when things get back to normal, we will make sure we get everyone back on track.

We are very appreciative of parents and pupils who have shared feedback to help us improve our provision. We are listening and have modified our approach throughout.

Online Learning - We continue to use the same structure as established currently:

Lesson tasks on our school **website** fortnightly

Learning assessment tasks and feedback on **SMHW**

Supporting resources and worksheets **HomeAccess+** drive

Online lesson tasks week 9 and 10 begin Monday 8th June:

<https://www.waseleyhills.worcs.sch.uk/coronavirus-independent-learning>

Daily challenges - on Facebook have been well received and we have been pleased with pupil, staff and community contributions - even having artists willing to take questions from pupils to support this. On the advice of our Student Council we have now opened an Instagram account to facilitate communications to a younger audience @waseley_hills_high_school.

Pupil Email Support - Pupils email accounts are now active and they have been sent guidance on how to use these to contact teachers. Whilst work submissions remains through SMHW teachers are available to offer support and guidance through email.

Virtual Summer Events - We plan to run a virtual sports day for pupils to participate and earn points towards the house system. Watch this space. We are also considering a Virtual 'Waseley has Got Talent' for all our budding dancers, comedians, singers, or any other skill you wish to showcase.

Online chat support - we are still developing this technology and training teachers. We hope to initially pilot it with virtual quizzes to each Year group so everyone can practice using the technology. We then



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hope to be able to offer communication between pupils and subject specific teachers to support online learning resources.

Transition - the school website now has two videos to support Year 6 pupils in their transition. Staff have completed video tours of each area of the school and introduced themselves using sign language (in support of Deaf Awareness week)

Yours faithfully

A. W. Roll

Mr Roll
Headteacher

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