

20 May 2020

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Dear Parents and Carers

Wider Re-opening of the College: Update

You may recall that, in Friday's newsletter, we indicated that the Department for Education has stated that:

*'From the week commencing 1 June 2020 **at the earliest**, we will ask secondary schools, **to offer some face-to-face support** to supplement the remote education of **Year 10 and Year 12** students who are due to take key exams next year, alongside the full time provision they are offering to priority groups.'*

There is no indication that students in any other year groups are expected to return to College at this time.

We had hoped to be able to communicate plans with you at the start of this week about this and, as of yet, we have been unable to do so. We do apologise but we have been awaiting further government guidance around what the expectations are in relation to 'some face-to-face support for Years 10 and 12'. Despite suggestions that this is forthcoming, it has still not appeared.

Therefore, we wanted to give you a mid-week update about the current position, rather than waiting until the Friday newsletter, as we recognise that there are a range of personal circumstances that many of you need to plan for.

We would like to reassure you of the following:

- Whilst we will find ourselves in a position where we need to move forward at some stage in the near future with the resumption of face to face education, the safety of our students and staff is our first priority;
- We **have** devised a comprehensive action plan in relation to a wider re-opening that is ready to be initiated, once there is clarity about the government guidance, which includes consulting with our parents and carers;
- We **will not** proceed with any wider re-opening of the College, beyond our current Childcare Provision for our priority children and those of critical workers, until there is confirmation that the government's five key tests have been met;
- **Following this**, we **will not** proceed with any wider re-opening of the College until we have had an opportunity to brief all of our staff on our plans and protocols;
- We **will not** proceed with any wider re-opening of the College until we have had time to implement all of the stages of our action plan.

Whilst we have initiated some actions in advance of any re-opening, in particular focussed around health and safety measures and the ordering of hand washing and sanitizing products, cleaning materials and PPE, we want to be in a position where we can confidently say to our stakeholders that we have everything in place to minimise risk before we invite students to return to College.

Whilst we do not want to be in a position of delaying any return to College for our Years 10 or 12 students, we envisage that it will take **at least two weeks** to implement all of the aspects of the action plan, which cannot proceed until guidance has been received from the government. Therefore, whilst we are not able to confirm a date for when this will be, **it will not be before Monday 15 June**. Please note, at this stage we are not confirming that it will be this date for any students to return, only that it will not be before then.

We are committed to ensuring that we give further updates as soon as we possibly can.

In the meantime, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you are doing at home. We appreciate that these are difficult times and our thoughts are with you all.

Please take care and we will update you as soon as we can.

Yours sincerely

Ms. S. Heame

Ms Siobhan Hearne
Principal