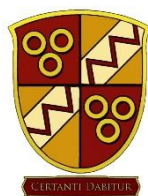


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9th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you with our latest update about schooling for your child in the context of Covid-19. This is especially important for families of students in Years 10 and 12 ahead of their phased return to school. However, there is information here for all families, so I urge you to read carefully.

Tuesday 9th June Wirral's secondary head teachers met as a group with Public Health Wirral and were reassured to hear from them that there are no public health reasons why we should not move forward with our plans for wider educational participation from the 15th June. Public Health Wirral are reassured by the detailed risk assessments that all the schools and the College have in place and are confident that these ensure that we are offering safe environments for students and staff.

All secondary schools and the Sixth Form College have been working together through this challenging time and will continue to do so as we move forward. There is a recognition that what we do over the coming weeks will vary as we adapt our plans to open to a wider body of students dependent on our individual circumstances.

The Wirral local authority fully supports this common but necessarily varied approach.

Students in Years 10 & 12:

From Monday 15th June, we will be introducing a phased return for students in Years 10 & 12. A huge effort has gone into ensuring we can deliver a plan which meets the government guidelines and delivers "face to face support" in addition to further learning at home. This has been done in a way which minimises the risk of infection for students, staff, and their families. To that end, please find attached a detailed plan that ensures each student receives specialist subject contact for each of their examination subjects as well as specific support for their wellbeing in these challenging times.

This plan requires that students attend school only on the designated days for each subject studied. To meet the government requirement that only 25% of the year group are in school at once, core and the most popular subjects for Year 10 will split into two groups: Group A and Group B.

Individual invitations will be sent to Year 10 students with their assigned group letter.

NB: this only applies to students whose families have indicated they will be attending school. Should your circumstances change, please contact pastoral staff as soon as possible.

Please do not send your child in to school without prior notification

Due to much smaller class sizes, no such split will be necessary for smaller GCSE subjects or for any of the Year 12 option groups.

School will be open to Years 10 and 12 on their designated days **between 10am and 12pm only**. All students – including 6th Formers – must enter via the ASDA gates and line up as directed by staff, observing social distancing measures as marked on the ground. All students must use hand-sanitiser in front of staff before entering the site (alternative hand-washing arrangements will be offered to students with allergies) and will then be escorted into a socially distanced room that meets the 2 metre rule. They will be given a personal pack of learning resources to leave in school for each day they are in. Learning spaces will be fully cleaned each day before students return.

There will not be any provision of breaks, food, or drink. Students are free to bring their own water from home and free school meal vouchers will continue to be distributed as previously. Toilets will be easily accessible from the room where students will be working.

Students will leave the site immediately at the end of their session under the supervision of staff, returning to the supervision of their families. We have engaged with bus companies to inform them of our re-opening intentions within their specified two week notice period. However, they have not yet clarified their plans for school bus services. Please see our website for updates.

I would also like to remind all parents to observe social distancing rules when dropping off and collecting students; and I ask that students do not go into ASDA.

All usual school rules apply to students returning to school, with the addition of the following points:

- Social distancing must always be followed
- Good Covid-19 hygiene must be followed (wash/sanitise hands, catch coughs or sneezes in a tissue or shoulder)
- School uniform should be washed after every session in school
- Travel to and from school should include social distancing and clear respect and consideration for other members of the community as students represent Oldershaw in public

Our reputation for kindness and working with families speaks for itself. However, I must make clear to all that we will not accept any student in school whose behaviour compromises the health and safety of anyone else. This may include individual students being asked to return to working at home full time.

Finally, students should not return to school if displaying the Covid-19 symptoms of:

- **High temperature** - you feel hot to the touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **A new continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours
- **A loss or change in your sense of smell or taste** – this means you have noticed you cannot smell or taste anything or things smell or taste different to normal

As ever, please contact the relevant pastoral staff for your child if you have questions about these details:

Year 10: Miss Walmsley or Mrs Prudence

Year 12: Mrs Riley or Mrs Hughes

The steps we have taken to ensure the health and safety of all are available on our website.

Students in Years 11 & 13:

As this is the time when GCSE and A-Level examinations would be underway, there will be no return to school for these year groups. However, I would like to assure you that we have given considerable time and consideration over many weeks to determining the teacher assessment grades for our students and I believe we have been fair to all. Results days for GCSE and A Level remain as previously notified and I

will write to these families about specific arrangements nearer the time. We wish all our Year 11 and Year 13 students the very best for the future and look forward to seeing many of them again soon.

Students in Year 7, 8 & 9:

For children in Years 7, 8 & 9, arrangements continue as previously during lockdown: work is being set via fortnightly booklets which are available online and in reception. Children can continue to interact with their teachers via Microsoft Teams and families should continue to address any queries about this work to staff as appropriate.

Students in Year 6 joining Oldershaw in September:

We continue to look forward to welcoming our new students who are joining us in September from primary schools. Miss Smyth and Mr Williams, who will lead our Year 7 provision for these children, are talking to primary schools to make sure we know our new students as well as possible. Various pieces of information and resources relating to Year 6 are being continuously updated on the school website.

Vulnerable and Key Worker Students:

Provision for these students continues as it has throughout the lock down period when my staff have supported these young people every day including during school holidays. Please address any queries about this provision to your child's Progress Leader.

Thank you for giving this letter your careful consideration. I recognise it is an unusually detailed document. However, I hope you recognise the extensive work we have put in to ensuring you can send your child back to Oldershaw, safe in the knowledge that the health and safety of all is our number one concern. **To that end, I must emphasise that only the students identified to be in school should be on or near the school site.**

As ever, thank you for your support, please do not hesitate to get in touch with either my team or myself if you have any further questions.

Yours faithfully



J Bush
Principal