



9th June 2020

Wider Opening of School for Year 10 and Year 12 Students

Dear Parents and Carers,

You will be aware from my recent letter (21st May) that we have been working hard to enable school to re-open safely for Year 10 students from Monday 15th June and to ensure Year 12 students all have some face-to-face teaching and support from their teachers before the Summer.

Following a meeting of the Trust Board last night, I am delighted to confirm that these plans will now go ahead, and we shall open for all pupils in Year 10 from Monday 15th June and for Year 12 students from Monday 13th July.

Thank you to those Year 10 families who have completed the survey sent-out to you last week. It is vital that we know which pupils will be returning to school so that we can make sure that we have the correct staffing levels in place to ensure safe social distancing in each of our classrooms. Once we know the pupils who will be returning, we shall divide Year 10 into two halves – **Group A** and **Group B**. You will receive an update shortly to indicate whether you have been allocated to Group A or Group B.

The programme of lessons is indicated below:

Monday 15 th June	Monday 15 th June – Year 10 English (Group A) all day (max 10 pupils in each class)
	Wednesday 17 th June – Year 10 Maths (Group A) all day (max 10 pupils in each class)
	Friday 19 th June – Year 10 Science (Group A) all day (max 10 pupils in each class)
Monday 22 nd June	Monday 22 nd June – Year 10 English (Group B) all day (max 10 pupils in each class)
	Wednesday 24 th June – Year 10 Maths (Group B) all day (max 10 pupils in each class)
	Friday 26 th June – Year 10 Science (Group B) all day (max 10 pupils in each class)
Monday 29 th June	Monday 29 th June – Year 10 Humanities Option Block (Group A) all day (max 10 pupils in each class)
Monday 6 th July	Monday 6 th July – Year 10 Humanities Option Block (Group B) all day (max 10 pupils in each class)

This model will allow all pupils in Year 10 to receive a full-day of teaching from subject-specialist teachers on each of their core subjects of English, Maths, Science and Humanities (Geography or History) before the Summer. In most subjects this is likely to take the form of an introduction to a key area of the GCSE course which will then be developed through home-learning up to the Summer.

For Year 12 students, our proposed timetable is indicated below:



Monday 13 th July	Monday 13 th July – Year 12 Option Block A
	Tuesday 14 th July – Year 12 Option Block B
	Wednesday 15 th – Year 12 Option Block C
	Thursday 16 th – Year 12 Option Block D
	Friday 17 th – Year 12 – Option Block E
Monday 20 th July (<i>Term ends on Tuesday 21st July</i>)	Monday 20 th – Year 12 Zoom Assembly

This will enable all Year 12 students to receive a full-day of teaching for each of their A Level/BTEC/NCFE courses which will set-up home-study activities to be developed and consolidated over the Summer. Teachers will continue to be able to be contacted through *Show My Homework* to answer specific questions and to provide feedback on work submitted.

Unfortunately, there will be no school transport available on any of these dates (a circumstance completely beyond our control) and our school day will run from **10am – 2.30pm**. There will be no morning break and a thirty minute staggered lunch. All students will be expected to bring a packed lunch and a water bottle as there will be no on-site catering facilities or water fountains available.

Understandably, a number of parents have asked what steps we are taking to minimise the risks of infection from Covid-19 while in school. As the British Medical Association has stated, ‘A zero-risk approach is not possible. This is about ‘safe’ being an acceptable level of risk.’ All of our control measures stem directly from our risk assessment which has been developed in conjunction with our external health and safety consultants from Judicium:

- Social distancing from the moment pupils arrive on the school site. Pupils should be dropped-off in the School Bus Park and parents should not leave their vehicles or enter the main part of the school site. Pupils will be registered outside before being escorted into the building by teaching staff.
- Pupils will be briefed on the tennis courts to outline our safe working procedures and to provide reassurance and encouragement.
- Regular handwashing. We have purchased 16 mobile handwashing stations to supplement the usual wash-basins in the school toilets. Before entering the buildings, pupils will be supervised washing their hands before being allowed to enter the Robertson Block.
- All teaching will take place in the Robertson Block and each pupil will be assigned a designated seat in a single classroom. This is the seat they will use for each of their 4 days in school. Classes will contain a maximum of 10 pupils and windows and doors will remain open wherever possible to ensure appropriate ventilation. Further wash-stations and hand-sanitisers are located outside all of the classrooms which will be in use.
- There will be a strict one-way system enforced to ensure that there is no passing on the stairs, or narrow corridors, etc. Clear signage has been placed around school to indicate pupil routes and two-metre distancing.
- Cleaners will operate throughout the school day, with a particular focus on frequently touched surfaces – banisters, desks, chairs, light switches, toilets, etc. Further cleaning will take place at the end of each day.
- Toilets – a single pupil will be allowed in the toilets at any time.
- Pupils will eat their packed-lunches at their desks, the lunchtimes will be staggered, and then pupils will be taken outside for socially distanced and supervised leisure time on the field. While pupils are outside, cleaning will take place in the classrooms.
- All school staff have received extensive Zoom-delivered training on our safe working procedures.

- First Aid (if required) will be administered by trained staff wearing appropriate PPE.
- The school phone-lines will be open all day and we shall try to respond to queries in a timely manner. However, in line with government guidelines, the majority of staff will continue to work from home and the teachers in school will be teaching all day. It is still advisable to send specific, non-urgent queries through the school e-mail address enquiries@swracademy.org. Unfortunately, at the present time, no face-to-face meetings can take place in school.
- Pupils will not be required to wear school uniform, as we would recommend parents wash all clothes worn during the day immediately once pupils return home. We also realise that many of our pupils will have grown since lockdown began and we do not want parents to incur the additional expense of new school uniform at this time, so close to the end of the school year.

We are following all aspects of the Government's current guidance for schools on wider re-opening (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools>).

Pupils, staff or visitors should not attend school if they – or any member of their household - is displaying any of the symptoms of Covid-19:

- **High temperature** – this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (you do not need to measure your temperature)
- **New, continuous cough** – this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or 3 or more coughing episodes in 24 hours (if you usually have a cough, it may be worse than usual)
- **Loss or change to your sense of smell or taste** – this means you've noticed you cannot smell or taste anything, or things smell or taste different to normal

Anyone who has symptoms of coronavirus - whatever their age - can ask for a test through the NHS website (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing-and-tracing/ask-for-a-test-to-check-if-you-have-coronavirus/>).

We are delighted to be able to welcome our pupils back to school. While it will not be 'school as they have known it,' it will still be underpinned by all of the values we hold dear, with safety very much at the forefront of everyone's thoughts.

Thank you for your continuing support of the school and for the extremely supportive messages that you continue to send to staff in school – they really have been appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'M. Guest', written in a cursive style.

Mark Guest
Headteacher