

14 May 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian and Student

Information Regarding School Reopening

Please let me start by saying that I hope you and your families are all safe and well, this crisis is likely to continue for some time but as a team we can work together to help each other through this.

It is my wish to be as transparent as possible with you, with regards to our current position following the announcement made by the Prime Minister regarding schools on Sunday and since then, the updates provided by the Department for Education. Every day we are receiving more information about the expectations for educational settings from 1 June and currently this information is arriving with us at the same time as it is arriving with you. As a result, we are considering a number of options in our planning, which is at a very early stage.

We are currently focused on undertaking the required risk assessments to ensure the safety of staff and students. I want to reassure you that we will only open when we are absolutely convinced it is safe to do so and that any steps required to make this happen have been completed in full. The children, staff and parents of this community are much too important to me to be able to open without full consideration of the current situation. I understand the frustration this may cause because you, like all of us, want concrete answers and normality as soon as possible but currently we are not in a position to provide you with either of these. In Year 10 and 12 alone, we have nearly 600 students which is bigger than the entire population of many schools and therefore the process for any opening becomes more complex. However, please be assured that as a school, the education of your child is still very much the priority whilst we are unable to see students face to face and for those year groups that are currently not on the list to potentially come back to school in June, we are revisiting our processes and delivery to ensure they get the very best possible education. More will follow on this area before we finish for half term. One final point on reopening, before this occurs I will be asking you to fill in a survey to indicate whether you will be sending your child into school so I can staff any provision appropriately.

Whilst the main school has been closed the 'Pop Up' school provision for vulnerable and critical worker students has been open every day. It is our intention to move this back to the Silverdale Road site from 1 June and plans are in place to welcome them back. Currently there are approximately 20-30 students attending on a daily basis and they complete the work set on Google Classroom in line with all other students. The provision has been excellent and I would like to thank my colleagues who have helped staff this over the past few months. Please note – there is no 'Pop Up' school provision over half term.

I will write to you as soon as possible with further information regarding our provision for all year groups from 1 June.

Kind regards and stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Gibson
Headteacher