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Dear Parents and Carers,

As you know on 10th May the Prime Minister talked about the prospect of the gradual re-opening of schools. Since then we have been awaiting Government guidance about what this might mean, initially, for those year groups in our age range, i.e Year 10 and Year 12 students, where the ambition is for them to have 'some face to face contact' before the summer with their teachers to support continued home learning.

As of today, one day before half term begins, specific guidance for secondary schools has still not been published by the Government, despite this being promised in their publication of 11th May. This makes it impossible for us to share any concrete plans with you at this stage. What we do know is that the government is not envisaging a return for Year 10 or Year 12 students to anything like normal lessons. Senior Leaders in school have started to look at different possible scenarios that the Government may suggest but, as you will appreciate, we will not be able to begin detailed planning until we have the specific guidance. We will then consider what would be safe and practical, taking full health and safety advice, and completing full risk assessments.

I will keep you informed of any further developments and hopefully, in the week after half-term, I will be able let you know about the plans for our Year 10 and Year 12 students. Obviously, we all want to see students return to school but only when it is safe to do so and when all guidance and advice has been published, considered and acted upon.

Last week we sent out a questionnaire to students and were delighted with the response. While many students are coping really well with their work the overriding view was that, at KS3 we are still probably setting too much work and students are finding it difficult to keep on top of it. As a result of the feedback, after half term, we are going to reduce the amount of work that is set each day for students in Years 7, 8 and 9. Mrs Gammack will write to you next week with details of the changes. We are not yet going to change the amount of work set for Years 10 and 12 until we see the Government guidance mentioned earlier. We are also continuing to look at ways that we can improve how best we can support your children with their learning.

I hope you and your family continue to stay safe and well in these challenging times.

Regards
Mr Watson