

Dear Parents and Carers,

Face to Face support for Year 12 students

I hope you and your families are well.

As you will know, the Government recently announced that secondary schools should plan to provide some face to face support for Year 10 and Year 12 students during this term. They suggested the earliest starting date should be Monday 15th June. Last week the Government released further guidance, which states that:

Secondary schools, sixth form, and further education colleges are to begin offering some face-to-face support to year 10 and 12 pupils to supplement their remote education, which should remain their predominant mode of education during this term.

We believe that for the majority of students in Years 12, home learning has worked as well as we could have hoped. However, we know that for several different reasons, having face to face support in school before the summer will be valuable for students. Since the announcement, and the release of the further guidance we have been working on a plan that provides this contact in a safe and meaningful manner.

Our intention is to be able to have face to face support in school for Year 12 students during the weeks of 22nd June and 13th July. During these two weeks, Year 12 students will have subject specific sessions in all of their subjects. The aim of the sessions will be to review and build on previous home learning and to support students to evaluate where they are and to identify priorities to support with future home learning and summer work.

We are currently finalising arrangements and the associated Risk Assessment that are required to ensure the safety of students and staff and we will share the detailed arrangements later this week. Each option pool will be on a separate day with some sessions in the morning and some in the afternoon. So for a student who takes three subjects, they will be in school three times across a week, in their own classes and with their own teachers (classes will be in spaces that will allow for strict social distancing).

Following this letter, students will be emailed directly and asked to complete a questionnaire to inform us whether they are going to attend the sessions.

2021 Examinations

I know that you and your children will be concerned about the A Level exams in 2021. As a parent of a Year 10 student who will be taking her GCSEs next year, I completely appreciate this concern. I, and other Headteachers, will lobby the Department for Education, Ofqual, and the exam boards to provide some guidance on how these exams will be affected or altered because of the disruption caused by the pandemic.

Even if they do not adapt the nature and content of the exams, the exam boards use a mechanism referred to as norm referencing. This means the same proportion of grades are given out each year. Therefore, if students do less well nationally, which is likely given this break in their studies, then the marks for each grade boundary will come down to reflect this situation. Therefore, it is important students continue to engage with their home learning to ensure they are in the strongest position possible when we return to school. I hope this information provides some reassurance.

Regards

Mr Watson