

14th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Coronavirus Update 17

Most of this letter concerns our arrangements for allowing Years 10 and 12 to have some time in the school before the end of term. But I do want to start with three points relevant to all of our parents, carers and their children.

Firstly, we are changing the timings of the school day so that our scheme for Years 10 and 12 will work. **These changes apply to all Years, to all online lessons and begin on Thursday 18th June.** The new school day will be:

9.00	P1
10.00	P2
11.00	break
11.20	P3
12.20	lunch
1.20	P4
2.20	P5

Secondly, our efforts to provide everyone with teaching online will continue. For all its limitations – and you at home will need no reminding of these – it is still our most effective way of creating an educational experience for our students. It does ask a lot of them (and too much of some), but overall the response has been impressive. Thank you for supporting this week after week; please work with us in keeping up the momentum until the end of term.

Thirdly, I do not want members of Years 8 and 9 to feel that they are forgotten. I regret that we cannot offer them anything to vary this extraordinarily long period of working at home. The national priority, however, is to get Years 10 and 12, the two years with public exams in 2021, into the school before the end of term. (I will mention as well that we shall not be able to meet our new families and students who are currently in Year 7, although we are doing our best to compensate at second hand.)

Arrangements for Year 10, beginning Monday 29th June

Our instruction from the Government is to allow all of the year to meet staff face to face without more than 25% of the combined total of Years 10 and 12 being on site at any one time.

There are two ways in which we could do this. The more straightforward would be to give each tutor group certain dates when they could bring their online work into school for half a day and be supervised by a range of staff. We have chosen the more ambitious alternative, one we prefer because it provides an altogether better quality of contact with the staff. Its disadvantage is complexity. Each student will need to have an individual timetable and to follow it carefully.

These personal timetables will be sent out during the next few days. They provide every student with one double lesson before the end of term with their normal teacher in almost every subject. (The exceptions are PE, RE and PSHE. It is possible as well that a member of staff has to self-isolate and so remain at home.)

The general pattern is that English, Maths and Science are timetabled on Wednesdays and Fridays, with the optional subjects taught during the afternoons of Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

If your son or daughter has a lesson at school during the new period 2/3 they will need to use period 1 for the journey from home. The teacher scheduled to work with him/her during period 1 will know this is happening. If he/she has a double lesson during the afternoon (the new periods 4 and 5) we expect him/her to travel here during the lunch break.

We have prepared the school site by limiting the capacity of each room to allow for a two metre separation, by marking floors and labelling entrances to ensure safe movement and by having hand sanitiser units in every teaching space. Each room will have been cleaned thoroughly before it becomes ready for use.

Equally important is the way in which the facilities are used. I am attaching the Code of Conduct which should be read carefully, signed and brought in for the start of the first lesson. Anyone not bringing it with them will not be allowed to remain for the lesson. I am also attaching a more general safety briefing which you may find helpful.

Any student with the symptoms of Covid 19 or who has been advised to self-isolate should not attend these lessons. If your son or daughter does remain at home for this reason, please let us know.

Year 10 Pods

It may be possible for some students to continue to work in their Pods from 29th June when they do not have lessons. We will make individual arrangements with your son/daughter if this is the case.

Arrangements for Year 12 beginning Monday 29th June

The timetabling of Year 12 lessons is altogether simpler. There are five option groups and each one has been allocated one morning of the working week. This means that each of their subjects is scheduled once a week, always during periods 2 and 3. (The teachers realise that the students may be on their way to school during their period 1, but we are expecting students to get home in time for the start of their online lesson period 4.) Students should use the timetable attached to work out when they should be coming in; please note as well the room allocated and the door to use to come into the school buildings.

Finally, I am sorry for having to impose so much detail upon you. As I have written already, the detail is part and parcel of trying to give some real educational value to this limited return. A summary of the arrangements for the two year groups is at the foot of this letter.

What lies ahead in September, we can only guess.

Meanwhile, my good wishes to you and your family.

Yours sincerely,



Natalie Waters

Overall Timetable 22nd June – 10th July

		p2 & 3	p 4 & 5
22nd June	Mon	Year 12 Option A	Year 10 Option A
	Tues	Year 12 Option C	Year 10 Option C
	Weds	Year 12 Option D	L Band English
	Thurs	Year 12 Option E	Year 10 Option B
	Friday	Year 12 Option B	R Band English
29th June	Mon	Year 12 Option A	Year 10 Option A
	Tues	Year 12 Option C	Year 10 Option C
	Weds	10 S1 Science (from p1)	L Band Maths
	Thurs		Year 10 Option B
	Friday	10 S2 Science (from p1)	R Band Maths
6th July	Mon	Year 12 Option A	Year 10 Option A
	Tues	Year 12 Option C	Year 10 Option C
	Weds	Year 12 Option D	L Band Science
	Thurs	Year 12 Option E	Year 10 Option B
	Friday	Year 12 Option B	R Band Science

Year 10 Optional Subjects

Monday 22nd June	Option A	Art, D & T, Drama, Health and Music
Tuesday 23rd June	Option C	Art, Engineering, I-Media, French, Sports Science
Thursday 25th June	Option B	D & T, Drama, German, Health and Music
Monday 29th June	Option A	Business, Child Dev, Creative Craft, Engineering
Tuesday 30th June	Option C	Business, Child Dev, Geography, History
Thursday 2nd July	Option B	Business, French, Food, Geography A, Geography S
Monday 6th July	Option A	Dance, geography, History A, History S
Tuesday 7th July	Option C	TBC
Thursday 9th July	Option B	Computing, French, History

