

21 May 2020

Dear Parent/carers

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Update - School Reopening

Thank you for your continued support of the school. I would also like to thank all parent/carers and students who left messages for staff to celebrate Thank a Teacher Day. These messages have helped lift the school community at an increasingly difficult time as we try to plan for more students returning to school after half term.

I have previously written to parent/carers to confirm that it is the expectation from the Government that we look to reopen to provide face-to-face tutorials for Year 10 and Year 12 students. This does mean that based on the current announcement, other year groups will not have the opportunity to return to school before the end of this academic year. The school will also continue to provide care for Key Worker children and vulnerable students.

I am now in a position to share with you more detail about our proposed plan. This has been helped greatly by parent/carers in Year 10 and Year 12 who completed the survey. I do appreciate and understand why for many you will want further information before making a final decision.

The Trust (TKAT) have confirmed that they would like the school to reopen to staff from 1 June where we will use the first part of this week to provide training and support to staff. This in itself is a significant task and I do not underestimate the anxieties that many staff will feel about this decision. I am sure you will understand that before we would like to admit Year 10 and Year 12 students we need to make sure that we provide time for staff to familiarise themselves with the control measures we are putting in place to protect the safety and wellbeing of staff and students. We also need to make sure staff are confident managing students as we know that students will find it hard to return to a school that will look and feel very different. Therefore, we have set the date of Thursday 4 June when we would like specific groups of Year 10s to attend school so that they can complete training and we can put in place steps to support their wellbeing in preparation for weekly tutorials.

I would like to set out our proposed plan for reopening the school and as indicated above we will be working towards this outcome whilst working closely with staff and students to support their physical and emotional wellbeing.

For Year 10 we are proposing that students return in two groups which will be split into 'pods' of no more than 15 students. One half of the year group will be in school on a Monday, the other half of the year group will be in on a Thursday. Each half of the year group will be using different areas of the school to complete their tutorials. When students are in school they will complete three one hour tutorials each week in English, maths and Science. The first tutorial will start at 10.00 and students will start to be dismissed from 1.30pm. Students will be expected to arrive on site between 9.40 and 9.55 where they will line up on the hardcourt, observing social distancing. Students will then be escorted in their 'pod' to their classroom where they will be allocated a seat which will remain the same for the duration that they are in school for the remainder of the summer term. Students will have a 10 minute break between tutorials but will not be able to leave the classroom. Toilet breaks will be organised so that students do not mix with other 'pods'. The purpose of the tutorials will be to review work that has been set the previous week, teach key skills and make sure students understand the work for the following week. At the end of the last tutorial there will be a staggered departure to avoid 'pods' intermixing. There is a lot more guidance that sits behind how we intend to observe social distancing and maintain high standards of personal hygiene and I will write specifically to Y10 parent/carers with a detailed guide as to how this will work. However, I would like to reiterate before we

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commence the tutorials in school we do want to know how your child has been coping and will be looking at what further support can be provided.

For Year 12 we are proposing that the KS5 Team arranges a one-to-one meeting with your child. This will be held in the 6th Form Centre with social distancing in place. These one-to-one meetings will take place in the afternoon of Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday (When Year 10 are not in school). At the initial meeting the KS5 Team will review your child's wellbeing and investigate how their home learning has been going. After this initial one-to-one meeting the school will look to arrange further one-to-one tutorials with your child's subject teachers.

For Key Work children and vulnerable pupils there will also be changes to how we will look after your child each day. **At the start of the week after half term these students should continue to attend school as usual.** We will be preparing to move this provision to the Berwick Art Block where we will operate this provision in isolation to the rest of the school. Students will then need to access the Berwick Art Block via the Berwick Pedestrian Gate. I will be writing to parent/carers who have children accessing this provision in the first week after half term with more information. We will also be using the first part of the week to train staff and make sure they are familiar with how the new provision will operate.

For all other students, including those when they are not in school, they should continue with their learning from home, supported by staff.

We are very conscious of the impact the current situation may have had on staff and your child. The social isolation and anxiety related to COVID-19 is extremely significant and therefore whilst I am able to provide an overview of our plans there will be more detail shared with parent/carers in the first week after half term.

Thank you for your continued support, it is much appreciated. I hope you understand that a great deal of effort has and will continue to go into planning for your child's return. We are following the latest advice and this does mean that things may need to change at short notice or we will need to review our proposed plans. We will continue to keep parent/carers informed and if you have any further queries please email these to enquiries@wellingschool-tkat.org.

With very best wishes.

Yours faithfully



Mr R Pett
Headteacher