

8th June 2002

Dear parents and carers,

The Government confirmed that from June 15th, secondary schools can offer some face-to-face teaching and support in school to year 10 students. We are really looking forward to having students from this year group back at school and being able to see them in person. However, as with all secondary schools, our remote learning provision will continue to be the main form of education that students receive. We have been offering 'live lessons' to students in Year 10 and we are now going to start offering these to students from other year groups, starting with year 9s. A separate letter is being sent out every week detailing the programme and timetable on offer.

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If your child is already attending our Community Classrooms for key worker and vulnerable students, they can continue to do so regardless of which year group they are in. If your child has specific health vulnerabilities, they should not come to school. Further details are available [here](#). Where a Year 10 student has been attending our community classrooms, it would be expected that they attend the Year 10 bubble lessons on the day they have been invited in. This is obviously an entitlement that we would not want them to miss out on. Our community classrooms will remain open for the rest of the term. Parents wishing to send their children in should get in contact with the school to book their place.

Our plans to begin providing some school-based education for years 10 students are as follows:

Monday June 15th to Thursday June 18th

One to one meeting with Year 10 students

Year 10 students will be invited in to have meetings with a member of the senior or middle leadership team. These conversations will perform several purposes. Firstly, we want to discuss how much progress they have made with their online learning and what further support they may need. Secondly, we will discuss their well-being and talk to them about their experience of lockdown. Finally, we will use this time to go through how the following week of onsite learning will be organised and what we will put in place to make sure that we protect our staff and students from any risk of spreading the virus. These conversations will be socially distanced and take place in our Sports hall.

Week beginning Monday June 22nd

Year 10 'bubble' lessons

Year 10 students have been divided into classes or 'bubbles' of 15. We will invite two of these groups into school on Monday, two on Tuesday, two Thursday and two on Friday. Leaving Wednesday free will allow us to clean the school more thoroughly and reduce the risk of transmission of infection. Each bubble will start at different times and leave at different times. The first class will arrive at 9.00 and be dismissed at 12.00 and the second group will arrive at 10.00 and leave at 1.00. This means students will be in one day per week and students from each bubble will be kept apart. Food will be provided during morning break.

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Social distancing will be expected at all times and the floors have been marked outside classrooms and in various parts of the school to assist with this. Both groups on site each day will have their own separate classrooms on either wing of the school. The classrooms have been organized in a way that all desks are two metres apart; hand sanitizers are stationed at the entrance to each classroom so all students can 'clean' their hands prior to their entrance. We will teach them English, maths and science, starting the day with a 'well-being' session. I want to thank all of our year 10 parents who completed the survey about their child's return to school. We understand that parents have reservations, but I want to assure you all that we have worked very carefully in writing our risk assessments and these have been approved by the ARK board. Any parent who wishes to discuss our arrangements is warmly invited to contact me so that we can have a further discussion about the measures in place.

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To help our students maintain social distance we will use separate stairwells for each class on site. Furthermore, we will let each student know what desk they will be seated at before they enter the building. Whilst food will be provided to each student in their classroom at break, lunch will not be provided.

It is important that students bring some key equipment to their 'bubble' lessons, as equipment cannot be shared. This is as follows: black or blue pen, red pen, ruler, scientific calculator, pencil case and their planner. We will not expect students to wear uniform and this will mean it will be easier to wash clothing before their next visit to the school and this will mitigate against the transmission of infection. We will have a first aid trained member of staff on site each day. We will have our usual first aid room and a separate room for any students who feel unwell and have any COVID-19 related symptoms. This room is set apart from all other classrooms and we will of course, inform parents straight away where their child becomes unwell.

A separate letter for year 10 parents will follow tomorrow. It will detail the time and date of the scheduled one to one meeting during the week beginning 15th June and the day their 'bubble' will be on site from the week beginning 22nd June.

During the Summer Term, we will not be allowing visitors on to the school site, except those involved in any maintenance of the school building. This will mean that parents will not be allowed into school. All contact will therefore be done via telephone or email. We have done a great deal of detailed work to put in place the measures needed to make school as safe as it can be for our pupils and staff. In line with government guidance, no more than 25 per cent of the year groups who can come to school are permitted to be in at any one time.

The strict arrangements to ensure everyone stays safe are based on the numbers of students we know are planning to come into school. If your child is in Year 10 and you have not already done so, please confirm if you will be sending your child back to school by **Tuesday 9th June**. This will help us with planning and timetabling. The link to the survey can be found [here](#).

We all have a role to play to stop the spread of infection and we must all continue to follow the NHS guidance. If any student has symptoms of Coronavirus, however mild, **they must not come to school**. If a student shows any symptoms at school, we will contact their parents or carers so we can send them home. Anyone with symptoms must self-isolate and

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stay at home for at least 7 days from when the symptoms started **and they should immediately arrange to have a Coronavirus test.** Everyone in the household of someone with symptoms must **stay at home for 14 days, or until they receive a negative test result** - they should not go to work, school or use public transport or taxis. Nobody should go out even to buy food or other essentials, and any exercise must be taken at home.

If a student's test is negative, they can come back to school. If the test is positive, they cannot come back to school until they have recovered, the minimum time they must stay at home **is 7 days.** If your child has a Coronavirus test, **you must let us know the result as soon as possible.** If the test is positive, we will need to advise everyone in their class group to stay home for 14 days.

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All the information about what to do if you have symptoms is available the Government website [here](#).

At school, we will make sure that students follow the strict hygiene measures required and that they wash their hands often. Please make sure that your child understands how important it is for everyone to wash their hands regularly for 20 seconds using soap and water and that they cough and sneeze safely into a tissue or their elbow.

Considerations for further reopening

Any decisions taken are always based on the advice and guidance available at the time and we continue to prioritise the health and wellbeing of pupils, students and staff alike. The fast-moving nature of this situation means any final plans cannot be communicated until August.

We therefore need to maintain as much flexibility as possible to respond to each announcement and guidance which could include another lockdown and changes to social distancing advice. We are not able to make any commitments about further re-opening at this time.

In the meantime, our dedicated team of staff at Evelyn Grace are determined to make the most of our 'new normal'. As we plan for each phase there are many considerations for reopening:

- Maintain and developing the new norm of blended online and in-school learning to support students and staff.
- Reduced staffing levels for in-school teaching due to those in vulnerable categories not being able to attend site.
- Managing social distancing in our building and the impact of this on well supported teaching and learning and on facilities.

Our primary guiding principle will remain to deliver the best education we can at any time whether this is delivered online or in school. We will continue to prioritise groups of students by year group and need and to deploy our resources in the interests of all children while operating under these constraints. As the guidance evolves, we will update our approach and inform you.



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This has been a very unsettling time for everyone. We know that some of our students may be anxious about coming back into school, some may have had relatives who have been ill with the virus, others may have been bereaved. We will do our very best to make sure that our students are supported and enjoy returning to doing some learning at school. Please do let us know if your child might need some extra help and support.

Our teachers and school staff have worked incredibly hard to put all of the measures needed in place to make our school safe, we really appreciate your patience and understanding whilst we made our plans. If you need any further information, please let me know, I look forward to seeing some children back at school very soon. In the meantime, please do encourage your child to continue with their home learning.

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Yours sincerely

Tim Dainty
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