



# Ark Evelyn Grace Academy

21<sup>st</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following my letter to you on [13<sup>th</sup> May 2020](#), I am writing to update you on our planning for students in Year 10 to start coming into school before the summer holidays. We are hoping to organise this to begin from June 8<sup>th</sup>.

The safety, health and wellbeing of everyone in the school is, of course, our highest priority. We are planning how to put into place the measures needed so that our school can be run safely, hygienically and with appropriate procedures in place when we begin our phased re-opening.

The Government has stressed that all re-opening plans will depend on infection rates decreasing and it won't make its final decision on whether schools can definitely re-open until May 28<sup>th</sup>. This uncertainty makes planning difficult, but we will continue to develop our plans to welcome some children back into school – we really miss seeing them!

The Government guidance says that no more than 15 children can be in a secondary classroom when schools do begin to re-open. It has also said that students will need to sit two meters apart. We will therefore need to very carefully manage how to limit the number of pupils and staff who mix with each other whilst in school. In addition, it will be important that we avoid large numbers of students gathering when coming to or leaving school. This may mean we will have to stagger the times so that different students arrive and leave at different times. It is also likely that we will start the phased re-opening by limiting the number of students that we invite onto the school site each day. We are expecting further guidance from the Department for Education later this week.

We have already sent a survey to parents of our year 10 students asking for you to tell us how you feel about your child being back in school. Thank you so much to all those parents who have completed this survey already. If you have not completed it yet, please do so. You can find it [here](#). This information is really helping to inform our thinking and planning.

Once we know how many students to expect, we can then start to work out how and when they can return during the summer term.

If your child is going to attend our Community Classrooms for key workers and vulnerable children, they can do so regardless of which year group they are in and we encourage them to attend. If your child has specific health vulnerabilities, they should not come to school. Further details are available [here](#).

I will write to you again after May 28<sup>th</sup> when the Government has made its final decisions regarding re-opening. Please do bear with us, I know that many of you will already have lots of questions, but I would ask for your patience and understanding as we continue to organise the return to school.

**Ark Evelyn Grace Academy**

255 Shakespeare Rd

London SE24 0QN

T +44 (0)20 7737 9520

[info@evelyngraceacademy.org](mailto:info@evelyngraceacademy.org)

[www.evelyngraceacademy.org](http://www.evelyngraceacademy.org)



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In the meantime, and for all of our students in other year groups, please do continue to encourage your child with their home learning – we have seen such brilliant work. We hope that you and your families are well and safe at this time and I will be in touch again soon.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Dainty  
Principal  
Ark Evelyn Grace Academy

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