

Dear Parents/Carers and students in Year 10 & 12,

Further to my letter of last week, I wanted to write to you following the Government's plan to gradually ease the lockdown restrictions, including school re-openings, and further clarify the academy's position.

I hope the information below, relating to all schools across England, is helpful and reassuring. **I apologise for the length of the letter, but there are so many details I need to communicate with you and the detail is important for your reassurance and clarity.**

From Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June, the Government has said we should prepare to begin some face-to-face contact with Year 10 & Year 12 students who have key exams next year, in support of their continued remote, home learning. We are planning for this to happen at SWB following a robust set of health and safety conditions which I will outline in this letter. **As always, the safety and wellbeing of students and staff is absolutely paramount and, if we cannot be sure an opening is safe, we will not open. However, at this stage, I do feel that we can successfully adhere to the Government's rules regarding social distancing and infection control.**

We are in the process of producing a comprehensive list of risk assessments to ensure every aspect of the opening has been thoroughly considered and risk assessed. Due to the tight timescales involved in the decision making and planning process, the ever-changing picture of guidance from Government and the importance of getting it right we will be taking the reopening process slowly and steadily as this is something, we cannot afford to get wrong.

Students, parents and staff need to be completely reassured that our school is the safe place we know it to be – otherwise the reopening will not be successful. Therefore, following a week of staff training, **the school will open on a part-time basis for our Year 10 & 12 students from Monday 8th June.**

**Students will not be in every day, only once per fortnight, initially, then moving to once a week.** Our plan is outlined below:

Week Beginning June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Building preparation SWB will contact all Year 10 & 12 students to arrange appointment times
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	Partial Opening for Year 10 & 12 students. One 30 minute 1-2-1 appointment for students with SWB staff
June 15 <sup>th</sup>	One 30 minute 1-2-1 appointment for Year 10 & 12 students with SWB staff
June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	One 30 minute 1-2-1 appointment for Year 12 students with SWB staff Year 10 students begin 0900 – 1100 & 1200 – 1400 tutorial lessons, once a week Groups of 10 students together at a time. 40 students per day
June 29 <sup>th</sup>	One 30 minute 1-2-1 appointment for Year 12 students with SWB staff Year 10 students begin 0900 – 1100 & 1200 – 1400 tutorial lessons, once a week Groups of 10 students at a time. 40 students per day
July 6 <sup>th</sup>	One 30 minute 1-2-1 appointment for Year 12 students with SWB staff Year 10 students begin 0900 – 1100 & 1200 – 1400 tutorial lessons, once a week Groups of 10 students at a time. 40 students per day
July 13 <sup>th</sup>	One 30 minute 1-2-1 appointment for Year 12 students with SWB staff Year 10 students begin 0900 – 1100 & 1200 – 1400 tutorial lessons, once a week Groups of 10 students at a time. 40 students per day

### Who should attend?

The government is advising that 'children and young people in eligible year groups are strongly encouraged to attend (where there are no shielding concerns for the child or their household), so that they can gain the educational and wellbeing benefits of attending'. You do not have to send your child to school during this pandemic. There are no plans to fine parents of children who do not attend at the present time.

### Who should not attend?

1. Children who have been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable due to pre-existing medical conditions have been advised to shield.
2. If a child/young person or staff member lives in a household with someone who is extremely clinically vulnerable, as set out in the guidance on shielding, it is advised they only attend an education or childcare setting if stringent social distancing can be adhered to and, in the case of children, if they are able to understand and follow those instructions. This may not be possible for very young children and older children without the capacity to adhere to the instructions on social distancing. If stringent social distancing cannot be adhered to, we do not expect those individuals to attend. They should be supported to learn or work at home
3. Children or young people should not attend if they have symptoms or are self-isolating due to symptoms in their household

### The main purpose and aims in opening for our Year 10 & 12 students are as follows:

- To slowly get students into school so they feel safe and reassured being back on site;
- To support students' mental health and wellbeing in a face to face manner, helping them to unpick the issues they have faced, and may continue to face, through the pandemic
- To provide students with some coping strategies to support them in their recovery
- To review, with staff, students' working patterns/routines and successes to date; home learning will be their norm for some time so, as these are exam groups, we need to get it right for them quickly
- To model, via a number of tutorials, how to access remote learning properly including submitting work online to teachers for feedback and generally setting them up for a better home learning experience by removing any barriers they are facing

Students will be closely supervised to ensure there are no breaches of safety protocols. A slow and steady reintegration is of vital importance to ensure everyone feels safe being back at school, getting used to this strange way of working. Arrival, Departure will be carefully managed via the academy reception and appointment times must be strictly adhered to. As parents, if dropping students off, please do not gather at entrance gates or doors, and do not enter the school site unless you have a pre-arranged appointment. It is your responsibility at the end of your child's session to ensure they return home and follows Government advice.

There will be supervision ensuring the 2m rule is met and, as numbers on site will be small, we are confident these distancing conditions can be met.

Flooring surfaces will have been marked with 2m distanced tape to support entry and exit to the site and fire drill protocols. Upon arrival and departure, students will wash their hands in the designated toilets. A teacher will supervise this to ensure it is done sensibly and safely. There will also be hand sanitiser available for those requiring it. However, we do encourage students to bring their own to school. We reserve the right to turn latecomers away to minimise the risk of crowding. Students are to leave the premises and go directly home and not to hang around the academy or the immediate vicinity.

There will be NO catering facilities available, so students are welcome to bring their own bottle of water, if required. Students are required to wear full uniform which must be washed at the end of the day.

### Key Worker/Vulnerable student Provision

As well as opening for Year 10 & 12 students in this phased and tightly controlled manner, the school will remain open for its key worker and vulnerable students. However, this provision will be in a different part of the school and supervised by different staff; the different student groups will not meet nor socialise, thus keeping personnel and students separate to reduce further the risk of infection and contamination across students and staff groups.

If a member of staff or a student displays symptom of Covid-19 whilst on site, they will be isolated according to Government guidance and must be collected from site as soon as possible. They will be treated by a trained school first aider who will be wearing PPE. Following this, a test will be made available to confirm whether this is Covid-19. If the test is positive, we will seek further guidance, but it is likely the any staff or student who came in contact with the infected member person will be expected to isolate for 14 days in line with Government guidance.

For all other none Covid-19 related first aid matters, the first aider will decide how to proceed depending on the condition, but it is likely full PPE will be used.

It is our expectation that all students adhere to the safety procedures and protocols. The school's behaviour for learning policy will be amended to reflect this. Any student who repeatedly fails to follow these safety protocols will be sent home and a discussion will be had with parents/carers before their reintegration to school.

We need to gather your thoughts about your Year 10 & 12 child's attendance at school from 8th June 2020. I understand the anxiety and nervousness around children's return to school. I hope this very lengthy letter has reassured you that it is safe to return to school and our phase one plan allows for very strict and tight safety and distancing procedures to be followed successfully. Although home learning will remain the main form of learning for the foreseeable future, some face to face contact will be of huge benefit to students' wellbeing.

**Here is a link to a form,** <https://tinyurl.com/y7gpwkw5> (also sent via text) which we are asking you to complete so that you can easily communicate to us the following information:

1. Whether or not you child will be attending from 8<sup>th</sup> June
2. If not, why not – please try and be specific to help us understand if this is a barrier we can overcome
3. Whether or not you want to talk to the leadership team before making a decision – someone will call you if you need us to.

**We really need this form completed by 1500 on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2020.** I appreciate the tight turnaround of this requirement. I am sure that many of you will have questions on this.

However, please do let us know if you have any further questions. we will do our best to answer these, but I hope you will appreciate that we will be limited to what the Government has so far made public.

Finally, I wanted to let you know how proud I have been of the students over the last few weeks. I know we have all experienced challenges of not being together, a totally new way of learning, personal battles and struggles but I know that they have all been a credit to themselves and their families.

Thank you for your ongoing support and communication. I look forward to a time when we can be in school again in the traditional way we know and love. In the meantime, I do hope you consider it safe to send your child back into school so we can begin paving the way to recovery. Take care of yourselves.

Yours sincerely,



Rod Hughes  
Principal