

SCA/GFI

10<sup>th</sup> July 2020

**Re: Initial plans for September 2020**

Dear Parent/Carer

Last Thursday, the Department for Education (DfE) instructed schools to make plans to reopen for all year groups in September 2020 and has provided schools with detailed guidance to use when planning for this reopening. We have spent the last week considering this guidance and have taken the same considered approach that we took with planning to reopen for just Year 10 students. To this end we are carefully planning how we can safely reopen to all students after the summer break. This planning will continue throughout the summer so that our school is covid-secure for all students returning in September.

We have already gained lots of experience of how to adapt school to have students attending safely during the pandemic. Our key worker and vulnerable provision has been open throughout the pandemic and we have had a really successful return to school for Year 10 students this half term. 85% of the year group have attended tutorials in school over the final four weeks of the year and there have been no incidents of poor behaviour or of infection during that time.

The keeping-in-touch meetings for current Year 7, 8 and 9 students are also going really well and being well attended. The information from these meetings is incredibly useful in informing our planning, both in terms of how school will look for students on a day-to-day basis, but also to help us establish where students are with their learning and their wellbeing so that we will be able to give targeted support to those who need it.

As a result of the work we have done this half term, I am confident that we can open in full and with sufficient safety measures in place to allow students to have an enjoyable and rich experience in school whilst being safe. Some of the key measures that we will be implementing will be:

- Increased cleaning of classrooms and communal areas throughout the school day;
- Outside sinks installed at student entrances and hand sanitisers in every classroom;
- Separate zones for each year group during all social times;
- Adjusted classroom layouts in line with DfE guidance;
- Signage to promote social distancing, good hygiene and sensible behaviour;
- A one-way system around site to ensure that passing students in corridors is avoided in narrow corridors;

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- Some adaptations to timings within the school day to stagger movement around the building;
- Temporary relocation of some classrooms to reduce corridor traffic;
- A curriculum in the first weeks of the term to allow students to move forward confidently with their learning and consolidate and build on what has been done at home.

This is not an exhaustive list and there are many other adaptations that will be put into place. My intention is to write to you with full detail again over the summer holiday.

Despite the above changes, we want to keep school as normal as possible for students but also want them to feel confident in understanding the new routines and allow them a chance to get used to the changes. To support this, we will be staggering the return of students in September with each year group attending one day in the first week back to have a full 'covid-secure induction' which will allow them to get used to the new systems with reduced numbers of students on site. This will run alongside the full Year 7 induction programme for new starters. The first week back therefore will look like this:

- **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> August** - Bank Holiday
- **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September** - Teacher training day - school closed
- **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** - Year 7 only in school
- **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September** - Years 7, 9 & 11 only in school. Years 8 & 10 home learning
- **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September** - Years 7, 8 & 10 only in school. Years 9 & 11 home learning

All students will then return to school full time on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

On the days that students are home learning, a specific task will be set on Frog for students to complete. This will be used to assess the ability of students to learn remotely which will feed into our contingency planning for if a local lockdown is imposed on the area. Those students without ICT access will be set this task on paper.

I will write with further details about the start of term during the summer. In addition, I will be writing to all parents about some useful tasks that can be done over the summer holidays to support the return to school in September.

Yours faithfully



Mr S Campbell  
Principal