



St Edward's School

Unity - Achievement - Faith

4th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers of Year 10 students,

I am writing to update you on planning for on-site learning during the weeks ahead. In creating such provision, myself and the Senior Leadership Team have had to take account of the following factors:

- The need to sustain learning and support for the vast majority of students who will continue to learn at home.
- The need to retain a totally separate provision for vulnerable children and children of key workers; and for year 12 support.
- The Government's direction that from the 15th June secondary schools should provide *some* opportunity for face to face learning support prior to the summer break, to supplement remote learning, for years 10 and 12.
- That such learning support should be for no more than 25% of a year group on site at any one time.
- Learning on campus must not disadvantage those students whose family wishes them to learn at home for the remainder of the summer term.
- The need to reduce risks to staff and students via social distancing and hygiene measures.
- The availability of staff to cover all aspects of the above provision.

Each school in the area is juggling the same variables within their own context. Each has its own campus, its own student needs, and its own staff to consider. This letter is to give you a broad overview of the provision that *our* school will make in managing our own context. You will be aware that no decision will satisfy everyone's needs, or reflect how each individual thinks that things should be done. I'm sorry that we will not be able to please everyone, and please know that we have done our utmost to ensure that we do as much as possible for as many as possible, with the resources that we have.

Next week you will receive more detailed information about the return of those year 10 who have opted to have some face to face learning on campus before the summer. We will be communicating separately with year 12 students, where arrangement will be different. It is important to note that this is a return to *school*, and so school standards and expectations will apply. The Governors will be implementing addenda to some existing policies, such as behavior, in order that we can ensure that, in reducing risk, we have absolute compliance with our expectations. Uniform is to be worn, but without a blazer at this time, and there will be new arrival and departure times for students.

All year 10 will be allocated one day a week for attendance in school. This will be the same day each week. They will follow the core curriculum of English, Maths, Science and RE, and be taught by a subject specialist, who may not be their regular teacher. The purpose of this face to face learning is to clarify, and consolidate learning; and progress will not exceed that being made by those learning from home. The hours of attendance will be 9am to 1.20pm and students will need to leave the site when learning is completed. There will be one mid-morning break in class groups, and we will not be providing a meal service except for those who usually receive free school meals, and request it. Please ensure that your child brings a packed lunch, or is able to purchase food on the way to or from school.

We have anticipated some potential questions overleaf, but I ask for your understanding if there is a delay in answering your specific question, sent to our "heretohelp" email address.

Thank-you, as ever, for your support and understanding at this time.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Antram
Headteacher

Some anticipated questions:

Can I choose/change the day that my child comes in?

Unfortunately not. We have to manage numbers carefully each day in order to reduce risks, and be able to meet wider needs.

What if their friend is coming in on a different day?

Our focus will be learning, and there will be no social interaction beyond the assigned class.

What if I change my mind about their attendance?

If you decide that you would rather keep your child at home, that's fine. Please just let us know. If you decide that you want them to attend, having previously indicated otherwise, please let us know, *but they must not attend until we have allocated a space/day to them, and have communicated that to you.*

Why do they have to wear uniform / what if they've outgrown it?

Please see the Governors' Policy on uniform. We will be operating as far as possible as "normal", and many children need this reassurance and familiarity. We have some supplies of uniform, so please contact us if we can help with a loan, or if you would like to purchase.

Other schools are doing things differently

This is addressed in the attached letter.

Will I be fined if my child doesn't attend school?

No, the Government has said that up to the summer holidays, parents will not be fined if they choose for their child to learn from home.

Why are students only in school for periods 1-4?

At the end of each day, all classrooms, public areas, and equipment need to be cleaned and disinfected. We are not able to staff supervision of strict social distancing over the normal lunch break.

What if I have booked a place, but my child develops symptoms?

It is vital that anyone showing symptoms must stay at home and follow Government advice. We will hold their place for when they feel better / are out of quarantine.

Why are you not offering options subjects?

With varying student numbers in each subject, and varying numbers of staff in each department; and the need to manage lots of different versions of "school" at one time, we cannot staff this.

What should my child do on the other four days of the week?

Follow the remote learning as normal. We are hoping that, in clarifying concepts for those on site, teachers will be able to take account of their assessment of understanding when planning learning for all.

What if Government guidance changes?

We will implement guidance within our context and means, if and when it changes.

What is happening in September?

We really don't know, but we will be writing to parents and carers more generally next week.

Will school transport be operating?

We are awaiting further information about transport services available.