



03 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Yesterday the Secretary of State for Education, the Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP announced the government's plans to reopen all schools to all students, full time from September 2020. I welcomed this announcement and unusually I received the government guidance on the reopening almost immediately following the announcement. This guidance gives the government's thoughts on how schools can open safely whilst continuing to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum to all.

The press release following the announcement can be found here:
[Schools and colleges to reopen in full in September](#)

Information on the reopening of schools can be found here:

[What parents and carers need to know about early years providers, schools and colleges during the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) outbreak](#)

Throughout the guidance many actions are preceded by the words "proportionate", "give formal consideration to", "as much as possible", "where necessary" and "where possible" indicating clearly that "one size does not fit all". This will be reflected in the different ways that schools may respond to the guidance depending on their size and context.

Over the past few weeks, together with my senior team we have been putting tentative plans together to ensure that when we reopen we do so in a manner that is as safe as possible for students and staff. Such things as social distancing in classrooms and corridors needs careful planning when over 1600 students and almost 200 staff are on the move at the same time. Now that we have had the definitive plan from government we will continue to develop our planning to best meet the school's need. As parents and carers, please be assured we will do all that we can to ensure your child has the best and safe start to the new academic year that they can. In my email next week, I will give clearer detail on the start of the new term to enable all students to prepare for their return.

As part of the preparation to return to school post COVID 19 lock down all staff are in school next week at various times to develop further our new "Recovery Curriculum" that will be in place from September. This will be a curriculum supported by intervention programmes that focus on such things as curriculum specific work, behaviour and



attendance supported by an underpinning of reassurance, empathy, communication and routine. This approach, we believe will assist our youngsters to re-connect and more importantly enjoy their education as we move out of the unique situation that we have found ourselves living in.

Attendance in School

Throughout the week the school has been continuing to work with our Y10 students here on site and when looking at attendance I am pleased that the number of students coming into school is increasing. The Whitby High School continues to do all that we can to reassure parents of the safety measures which are in place to welcome eligible children back to school this term. I am pleased that we have had a number of parents and carers come into school to see this first hand to not only reassure themselves but also their children. To continue to support schools with this, as part of the Government's central "Stay Alert" campaign, you are likely to see information adverts on these measures on the radio and online to reassure you that if your child is eligible to attend school, they should return before the summer break.

These messages will sit alongside wider government messaging about public transport and returning to work, which aim to reassure you all as changes to lockdown measures are made. The leaflets and films below are for parents of children in secondary school..

The leaflets and film for secondary students can be found here:

- ✓ <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/schools-/resources/leaflets/>
- ✓ <https://youtu.be/foQuuIWonl8>

Electronic Devices for Vulnerable Groups

Following the information in my email last week I am now pleased to confirm that the laptops and 4G routers provided by the government for use by vulnerable students have now arrived in school and are being prepared ready for distribution.

Parents and carers of eligible students will be contacted next week to arrange for collection of the devices. On collection the devices must be signed for and in signing to accept the devices parents and carers will also be signing to confirm that the equipment will be used in accordance with our safe use policy. The devices remain the property of the school and will be required to be brought back into school periodically without notice to be checked. The devices remain the property of the school.

Unfortunately, at the moment I cannot inform parents and carers of the situation regarding electronic devices for students in Y10. This has been administered through a different system and we await further information. As soon as we have further detail we will contact the relevant students, parents and carers.

Protective measures for holiday or after-school clubs and other out-of-school settings for children during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak

The government has published guidance for parents and carers setting out what they need to know about changes to after-school clubs, holiday clubs, tuition, community activities and other out-of-school settings for children and young people during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. These activities are independent of any school and usually organised by outside agencies such as Edsential. They have included information on what clubs and activities children and young people can attend, and what new safety measures parents and carers can expect them to have in place. The guidance for parents and carers can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-parents-and-carers-of-children-attending-out-of-school-settings-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

Free School Meals over the Summer

The government has clarified that due to the unprecedented nature of the coronavirus outbreak, they recognise families will face increased pressure on household budgets over the coming months. To support this, they are launching a Covid Summer Food Fund which will enable children who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals to be supported over the summer holiday period.

Any child currently in receipt of benefits-related free school meals or who becomes eligible during the summer term is eligible for the Covid Summer Food Fund. The Covid Summer Food Fund is available to provide support where needed including Y11 and Y13 pupils who would have normally left education but who are still eligible. Information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/covid-summer-food-fund>

Contact with School

It is important that through these difficult times we keep communication between students and school open. I would like to stress again that if students are struggling or have any concerns generally or about their work, they should be keeping in touch with their Form Tutors, HPMS and teachers through emails or contacting school generally.

As parents/carers, we would like to ask you to inform us of anything that you think is important particularly with regards to your child's wellbeing. We need to have an overview about such things as **bereavements, whether Covid-19 related or not** plus things that may have happened over the Lockdown that you believe we should be aware of. Please continue to inform House Progress Managers so that appropriate support can be put in place on their return to school. ***However, if you feel you would like to speak with us again about anything to do with your child please email their House Progress Manager directly so that they can arrange for a telephone call to be set up with you.***

Please can I remind you that when emailing school about specific information relating to your child, **we will not respond to emails sent from a company or business email address**. We will only respond to specific child related queries that come to us from a personal email address related to that child. I am sure that you will appreciate that by responding to an employer based email address this could breach GDPR regulations and safeguarding best practice – potentially putting your child at risk.

Support for young people through YOUTH FED

Youth Fed is a local organisation that exists to help young people. In these difficult times they could be an invaluable resource to them.

Youth Fed are offering free online courses on many topics for 13 to 25 year olds which will be of interest to them:

'During lockdown, more than ever before, here at Youth Fed we have seen a requirement to find new ways to support young people remotely. Whether that's help to keep you occupied, support you with understanding Covid-19, offer ways to build new skills, help you to plan your future or just to be there to reach out to'.

The courses have been specifically designed to provide support during lockdown and beyond. There are also online games, quizzes and daily challenges, where young people have the opportunity to take part and compete in order to win prizes.

Please view their website to find out more [Youthfed.org.uk](https://youthfed.org.uk)

Careers Adviser

Mrs Connor will be sending out appointment slots to school emails on afternoon of Friday 26th to students who have asked to speak to Paula. Please ask your child to check if they have requested an appointment. Paula is next due 'in' school on 9th July. If you would like to speak to her please let Miss Connor know, she will allocate appointments and email students the details as soon as she can. We only have two more days of Paula's time so please let Miss Connor know as soon as possible please by emailing her on aconnor@whitbyhs.cheshire.sch.uk

Staying Safe outside your home

The latest staying safe outside your home guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-safe-outside-your-home>

Keeping your child safe on-line

Changes have been made to the advice and guidance to help parents and carers to keep children safe online during the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. The main changes relate to information available on the Apps to help your child stay safe on-line.

[Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): keeping children safe online](#) – updated 25 June

Mental Health for Children Returning to Schools

Please find below additional NHS mental health advice to parents/carers for children returning to school.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2020/06/top-nhs-doctor-issues-advice-for-children-going-back-to-school/>

Coronavirus testing eligibility and how test and testing kits work

Guidance on coronavirus testing, including who is eligible for a test, how to get tested and the different types of test available can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

The Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency has published guidance for members of the public and patients about coronavirus tests and testing kits, including information on the different types of tests available and how they work.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-tests-and-testing-kits-for-coronavirus-covid-19-work>

Department for Education coronavirus helpline

The Department for Education coronavirus helpline is available to answer questions about COVID-19 relating to education and children's social care. Staff, parents and young people can contact this helpline as follows:

Phone: 0800 046 8687

Opening hours:

8am to 6pm – Monday to Friday

10am to 4pm – Saturday and Sunday

If you work in a school, please have your unique reference number (URN or UK PRN) available when calling the helpline.

Updated handwashing advice

It is essential that everyone washes their hands more often, using soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand washing with soap employs mechanical action that loosens bacteria and viruses from the skin, rinsing them into the drain. Drying hands afterwards makes the skin less hospitable to the virus. The latest guidance and video on hand washing can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>

The e-Bug project is led by Public Health England and has a dedicated webpage for learning resources on hand washing and respiratory hygiene. E-Bug has published posters on hand hygiene, and covering coughs and sneezes, to display in bathrooms, classrooms and shared spaces.

The hand and respiratory hygiene posters and other educational resources can be found here: <https://e-bug.eu>

I hope that you are all well and thank you for your continued support.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. Heeley'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'B' and a long, sweeping tail.

Mr B Heeley