



5 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all had a restful a half term break that you were able and managed to take advantage of the good weather we were fortunate to have over the week. Some easing of restrictions allowed a little more freedom for people living in England and I hope that you were safely able to make to the most of this easing.

Prior to the half term break, I worked with my senior team to put together an outline plan for the partial reopening for some face to face contact with Y10 and Y12. Following the most recent announcement by our Prime Minister, I have been working with colleagues to amend this plan as a number of elements had to change in response to the Prime Minister's briefing. As I mentioned in my last email unfortunately, to date the Headteachers and Principals of schools have not had prior detail of any statements made by government relating to such matters.

I can confirm that our plans have been approved by our governing body and adhere to the guidance set out by government. I have had a final meeting today and can confirm that our Y12 arrangements will be distributed to parents/carers following this email. I can also confirm that the arrangements for Y10 starting from the 15 June 2020 will be with parents/carers and students early next week. Please be assured that the details will include how we will approach health and safety in school during this time including adopting stringent social distancing procedures when on site.

Thank you to Y10 and Y12 parents/carers for your responses to our recent e-survey regarding sending your child into school for face to face work with staff. I understand that a number of you felt you were unable to make that decision due to anxiousness regarding arrangements being put in place. This is perfectly understandable, however, I believe our detailed plan which you will have will offer answers to your concerns.

At this point, I have no information from government regarding plans to bring Years 7-9 back into school following the summer break. It is clear that there is no intention of these year groups starting back before September.

As you are aware, our Resource Hub was put together very quickly as we planned for Lockdown and the work completed through the Hub has been impressive. However, we



continually review the things we do and have now upgraded the offer through the Hub by the use of Google Classrooms. This online platform is very easy to access and use and simplifies our approach so that students know exactly what they are doing on a daily basis. If you haven't already taken a look at this ask your child to show you!

The information for parents/carers about the wider opening of nurseries, schools and colleges, transport, attendance, free school meals and remote education has been updated with information on what parents/carers need to know about schools, colleges and other education settings during the coronavirus outbreak.

[What parents and carers need to know about schools and other education settings during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

School Dates 2020/21

We have had a number of enquiries from parents/carers regarding the opening of the school in September 2020 and term dates etc. At present, I see no changes to term dates published on our website however, as discussed earlier, I do not have any information from government to indicate what their plans are for September 2020. We may find that we will have to stagger the start of any whole school reopening to support such things as Year 6 transition from Primary schools. Historically, the bulk of this is undertaken in July but now will have to take place in September. It is also likely that Years 7, 8 and 9 groups will need to transition back to school following a break in school life since March. We do not yet know what the government advice will be at that time, I can only say that at this stage it is highly unlikely that all year groups will be back to school as normal from the start of term. As always, I will keep you updated in this every changing situation.

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/>

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.

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.

Careers

If your child would like to arrange an email or telephone conversation with our career advisor Paula Owens, please email aconnor@whitbyhs.cheshire.sch.uk who will pass the details to Paula who will contact you directly. Please also see the attached document from Miss Conner.

Mental Health Support

Please see the following links and attachments for schools during the lockdown period. The Mental Health Crisis telephone line is provided by CWP and is accessible 24/7.

The myHappyMind Light Programme is a free resource for all primary schools and is also available for Early Years settings. The attached impact report and school leaflet are from myHappyMind, which is the emotional health and wellbeing platform currently being piloted in 24 Primary Schools in West Cheshire.

Schools registration link: <https://myhappy mind.org/light-enquiry>

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>

Critical Workers

Children of critical workers are encouraged to attend school, and to reflect plans for wider opening of schools from 1 June, at the earliest. Updated information defining vulnerable children, in line with existing guidance, for the purpose of continued education.

[Critical workers who can access schools or educational settings](#)

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. Hand sanitiser can be effective if soap is not available or the situation makes using soap less feasible (i.e. when outside) but using hand sanitiser provides none of the virus-destroying friction that rubbing your hands together and rinsing with water provides. 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 have a good half term break 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', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mr B Heeley
Headteacher