

Our ref: ljm/KDV/Correspondence

15 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

### **Re: Questions Following the Prime Minister's Announcement**

While I have today sent out an assembly for our students, I also wanted to send a letter to parents and carers to address some of the questions you almost certainly have following the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May. This speech stated that it was the Government's intention to begin the phased reopening of schools for some students from June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

In line with the government guidance, if TCOLC is in a position to open in the traditional sense before the summer holidays it will be to Year 10 and 12 students only. I use the word 'if' because before the school physically opens to the wider student and staff population, we must be able to guarantee that:

- We minimise contact with individuals who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school
- We have the facility and resource for students and teachers to clean hands more often than usual - washing hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and drying them thoroughly or using alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered
- We can ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach
- We have the resource to clean frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach
- We can minimise contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment, i.e. students and staff must maintain social distancing of remaining 2m apart.

There are approximately 470 students over Years 10 and 12 and it is simply not feasible to open our doors to all of these students at once and adhere to the above key health and safety principles. Therefore, before we can decide whether we are in a reasonable and practical position to open, we have a number of questions we must investigate and answer.

For example:

- How many students we can have in the school at one time whilst maintaining the key health and safety principles?
- How many students can we fit into classrooms in order to maintain social distancing guidelines?
- What staffing capacity do we have to deliver high quality lessons to much smaller groups?
- Which lessons or activities will have the greatest impact and are able to be delivered?
- Do we have access to the recommended PPE in great enough quantities?
- Do we have adequate handwashing facilities for the number of students we would like to attend?

- Do we have access to the increased cleaning capacity needed?
- In the likely event students will not be able to attend full time, which days and for how long will they attend?
- How do we best supplement remote education with some face-to-face support for students?
- How do we plan drop off/pick up to minimise adult-to-adult contact?

The above represents just a small sample of the decisions and actions that myself, the senior leadership team, along with key support premises management staff are currently having to work through in order to reach the point that I can confidently communicate our reopening plans.

Please be reassured, we are working swiftly through these actions; we have already begun to adapt working so that we can guarantee the safety of all of our students and staff. I assure you, we are desperate to have students back in school, so that we can provide face-to-face teaching and learning. Our first priority though must be the safety of our community. Therefore, I do not want to make any plans in haste that may risk the health and safety of students, staff or parents.

Whilst I appreciate these continue to be uncertain and worrying times, in the next week Miss Walton will be contacting all parents and carers to see which parents would want their children to attend any in school provision we are able to offer before the summer holidays. I appreciate, this may be a difficult decision for some families to make, but if you are in a position to inform us this would be incredibly useful for planning our strategy.

Finally, I anticipate, we will be in a much better position towards the end of next week to communicate an outline of our reopening strategy with students in Years 10 and 12 and their parents and carers, until then I thank you in advance for your patience and ongoing support.

Yours sincerely

**Mr K. Vernon**  
**Head Teacher**