

1<sup>st</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Students

The government recently announced that secondary schools should plan to provide some face-to-face contact with Year 10 and Year 12 students during this term. They suggested the earliest starting date should be 15/6/20 for these two year groups. Since this announcement, we have been working on a plan that provides this contact in a safe and meaningful manner.

This plan and accompanying Risk Assessment have now been ratified by governors and I am writing to outline the timetable for the remainder of this half-term.

Throughout this half term remote learning for Year 9, Year 10 and Year 12 students will continue. However, this may be adapted for Year 10 and Year 12 students when they have the opportunity to be in school.

#### **Week 1 and Week 2 (Weeks beginning 1/6/20 and 8/6/20)**

We remain open for the children of critical workers and 'vulnerable' children. We have also arranged to see students with Education Health Care Plans for an extended meeting with their key worker throughout the first two weeks of this half term.

#### **Week 3 and Week 4 (Weeks beginning 15/6/20 and 22/6/20) Year 12 Timetable**

From the start of Week 3, we will be holding subject specific sessions for Year 12 students across a two-week period. The timetable for these sessions is on our website. I will be writing to Year 12 students and their parents later this week in much more detail summarising the arrangements that will allow these sessions to work safely, however, the full Risk Assessment is already on our website. The aim of these sessions will be to review previous home learning and then help prepare students for their future home learning and summer work.

After you have received the more detailed letter, I will be asking students to inform us whether they are going to attend these sessions via a Microsoft Form Questionnaire, which will be e-mailed directly to students via their Year 12 school account. This is very important, as it will allow us to ensure we have the correct number of students in each venue.

#### **Week 5 and Week 6 (Weeks beginning 29/6/20 and 6/7/20) Year 10 Timetable**

We have deliberately timetabled Year 10 lessons after Year 12. Given the greater level of maturity of Year 12 students, this will allow us to assess our procedures to see if they need adapting prior to Year 10 students returning.

Therefore, from Week 5 we will start to see Year 10 students in quarters across a two-week period.

P Quarter      Monday

Q Quarter      Tuesday

R Quarter      Wednesday  
S Quarter      Thursday

This will be repeated in Week 6

In their quarters, students will attend school from 9.30 am to 12.40 pm and have lessons in the core subjects of English, Maths and Science. I will write to you in greater detail next week summarising the arrangements that will allow these sessions to work safely. Again, the full Risk Assessment is already on our website. We want these sessions to be reassuring for students. Previous home learning will be reviewed and support will be given to prepare students for their future home learning and summer work.

After you have received the more detailed letter, I will be asking parents to inform us whether their children are going to attend these sessions. This will be via a Microsoft Form Questionnaire and the link will be texted to you. This is important, as it will allow us to ensure we have the correct number of students in each venue.

### **Week 7 (Week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> July)**

We have deliberately not assigned this week to any particular year group. This will allow us time to assess which cohort of students need additional support. Also, given this is over 6 weeks away, there will undoubtedly be further government guidance to consider.

### **Year 9 Students**

Although I appreciate why the government has prioritised Year 10 and Year 12, I also understand that the amount of time Year 9 students are missing school must be a concern. We will continue to provide home learning for Year 9 students throughout the remainder of this term. We are also considering carefully when we might provide some face-to-face contact with Year 9 students. I will write to you later in the term with more information as we assess our current plan and receive further government guidance.

In addition, our KS3 Transition Team will, later this term, send to Year 9 students a mini series of thought provoking challenges and questions around the theme of 'Challenging your Curiosity'. These stand-alone activities will get students thinking about the bridge between Year 9 and their GCSE studies, and encourage them to curiously consider the core skills they can be developing to aid their future success.

### **2021 Examinations**

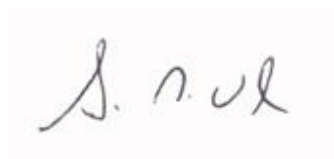
A number of Year 10 and Year 12 students and parents have been in contact with me concerned about the GCSE and A Level exams in 2021. As a parent of a Year 12 student, I completely appreciate this concern. I, and other Headteachers, will lobby the Department for Education, Ofqual, and the exam boards to provide some guidance on how these exams will be affected or altered by this extended break in study.

Even if they do not adapt the nature and content of the exams, the exam boards use a mechanism referred to as norm referencing. This means the same proportion of grades are given out each year. Therefore, if students do less well nationally, which is likely given this break in their studies, then the marks for each grade boundary will come down to reflect this situation. Therefore, it is important students continue to engage with their home learning to ensure they are in the strongest position possible when we return to school. I hope this information provides some reassurance.

I hope this letter has provided you with a clear plan for the remainder of this term.

Thank you for your support and I continue to look forward to the day we can welcome all students back to Whitley Bay High School.

Yours faithfully



STEVE WILSON  
Headteacher