



8th June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are well. Instead of a newsletter this week, I have decided that a letter will be more helpful in respect of the information I would like to share with you. The disadvantage of the newsletter, I have found, is that some information can be lost. I hope that it is easier to digest this week in this letter format.

Government Information for Parents and Secondary Schools

The Government updated their guidance to parents on Coronavirus Covid-19 last Tuesday (2nd June). The link below provides you with the most recent advice, including sections on safety in schools, transport and the steps that form the basis of the Government's decision regarding supplementary face-to-face support for Years 10 and 12.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Very understandably, several parents have requested more detailed information regarding our school re-opening for this term and also in September. The extract below from the updated Government advice for schools (updated 4 June) provides you with the context within which we are working:

“secondary schools should ensure that **only a quarter of pupils** in Year 10 and Year 12 are in school at any one time, including **vulnerable children** and **children of critical workers in those year groups** who are still encouraged to attend full-time. This is in addition to **vulnerable pupils and children of critical workers who might be in full-time attendance from other year groups**”

In order to manage this safely and effectively, you should be aware that the majority of education will continue remotely, as advised by the Government. As a rule of thumb, following this guidance, students in Years 10 and 12 would clearly only attend for approximately one day a week.

There is no clear information about wider re-opening of schools in September. However, despite our strong desire to have all students back in school, this is highly unlikely. You should prepare for a mixed economy of school and home-learning.

Risk Assessment and preparation for the partial re-opening of the school

Our Governing Body and staff have been carefully reviewing our up-dated risk assessment for the partial school re-opening over the past week. The risk assessment was re-drafted and finalised during the half term break after the long-awaited publication of guidance for Secondary Schools on the Bank Holiday Monday.

Assuming that staff and Governors are confident that these measures sufficiently mitigate against the risk of transmission to your families and to the staff, I will share an information pack with parents of Year 10 and Year 12 students by Wednesday, or Thursday this week. I will also confirm the starting dates for each year group. Please note that the Government guidance states “from”, rather than “on” 15th June. While we are working towards a partial re-opening on 15th June, my overriding priority is for Waddesdon School to be able to provide as safe and secure an environment as we possibly can.

In order to follow the strict guidelines on social mixing, students will be taught in separate groups – aligned with Maths ability for Year 10 (groups of no more than 12) and according to Option Blocks in Year 12. The first priority for Year 10 will be to ensure consolidation and understanding in English, Maths and Science, as well as PE lessons, in consideration of the negative impact to emotional and physical health that many of our students have faced. Support for Option subjects will follow in due course. A Level lessons will provide the chance to consolidate learning and feedback on the online past paper assessment that students will be completing in the week beginning 15th June. We are mindful that a number of students cannot attend school before the summer as they or members of their family have been instructed to continue shielding and we are exploring how they might best be supported.

I am grateful to those of you who have already replied to the County survey on school transport for Years 10 and 12. If you haven't yet submitted your response, please can I remind you that the deadline is by midday today.

Virtual Interform

Next week (15th–19th June) the PE department will be running a Virtual Interform. The competition is to walk/run/cycle/swim (anything that involves travelling a distance) as many kilometres as you can in 5 days. The form that travels the furthest combined distance will be the winner.

This competition is open to all students in Year 7 up to Sixth Form and the form tutor's kilometres will also be added to their form's total. Daily updates on the current standings will be provided on the Show My Homework notice board and via PE department Instagram @waddesdonPE.

Further details about how to record and submit your distances will be provided by Miss Smith in a virtual assembly on Wednesday, 10th June and posted on Show My Homework next Monday, 15th. Although family member's distances will not count towards the form total, it would be great if parents, carers and siblings could also get involved and encourage students to get active. Interform is all about working together as a team and every student's contribution will play a vital part in their form's success, so we hope that you are able to support your child's involvement in this competition.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support. Your messages of encouragement and understanding during this unprecedented time continue to sustain our hard-working staff and make me prouder than ever of the Waddesdon Community.

Yours sincerely,

Matthew Abbott
Headteacher
Waddesdon CE School