

21 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

As you will be aware, the government has asked schools to commence planning in preparation to open for more students from early June: specifically years 10 and 12. I am writing to give you some details of how we intend to move forward with this.

We will, of course, continue to maintain our provision that we have offered since March to the children of critical workers and vulnerable children. These arrangements remain unchanged. We are already in contact with these parents.

My absolute priority moving forward is to ensure that we only open to more students if and when it is safe to do so. I am working with my team to carry out a robust risk assessment to inform my decision-making.

At this point, I would like to make it very clear that my expectation, in line with government guidance, is that the return of year 10 (during the summer term) will be phased with very small numbers in the academy at any given time. This will run alongside our provision for critical workers and vulnerable children. All other year groups will continue with their online learning and will not be in school.

As your child is not in year 10, online learning will continue to be the sole focus for their study. I would, once again, like to thank you all for the continued support you have provided with this new format of learning. The efforts of students, parents/carers and staff has once again resulted in improved statistics of online engagement this week.

We will continue seeking to strengthen this online provision through new initiatives such as the recently introduced "home learning timetable". The academy has launched the new VMG Google programme, which promotes the health and wellbeing of all students whilst providing information on current events, this has increased the number of students engaging in online learning. The academy is also providing non-compulsory extracurricular projects to motivate and enthuse students who are interested in taking part.

It has been hugely uplifting to see the excellent participation of these activities on Twitter and Facebook. There have also been a large number of text messages that are being sent to households every Friday recognising the great work that is being completed by students. As always, I continue to welcome feedback regarding the successes and areas of development for this new format of learning, it allows the academy to improve its provision and practises.

We have no further details yet with regard to increasing our provision for years 7, 8 and 9, but I would like to reiterate that I will operate in line with the government guidance, and I will only open the academy to more students if and when it is safe to do so. However, it is important to note that students in years 7, 8 and 9 (other than children of critical workers and vulnerable children) are **still not required** to attend the academy for the foreseeable future. I will of course write to you when decisions are made regarding this.

In these unprecedented times, where we have all had to learn and work in different ways, I would like to thank you for your amazing support with your child's online learning and for the encouragement you have given your child to continue to learn online. Please continue to do this. It makes a great difference.

In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns, please do get in touch via the 'Contact Us' section of the website. Although your child may not be attending the academy, we are still very keen to support families where we can.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W Pratt', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mr W Pratt
Principal