

To All Parents/Carers

Our Ref: SKN/lha

11th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Academy Wider Re-Opening

As the COVID-19 crisis continues worldwide, and following recent government announcements and guidance, I wish to update you on the provision for our students for the remainder of this academic year. The public debate about the relaxing of lockdown and the wider re-opening of schools is a heated one. We have tried to remain objective in exercising good judgement in the best interests of our young people, our staff and the wider community. It is easy to get caught up in emotion but we will remain focused on our core purpose of endeavouring to provide the best education for our students whilst ensuring all staff, students and parents remain safe.

We have remained open for our most vulnerable young people throughout the COVID-19 crisis as well as for students who have an Educational and Health Care Plan and those whose parents/carers are on the critical worker lists as set out by the government. This provision will remain in place and will be headed up by Ms James, our Designated Safeguarding Lead.

As you may be aware the government's latest guidance, issued on 2nd June 2020, states that:

'For pupils in year 10 and 12, and 16-19 learners in the first year of their course, we are asking schools and colleges to supplement remote education with some face-to-face support for these year groups from 15 June. Remote education will remain the predominant mode of education for these pupils, and schools and colleges will be able to have a quarter of the year 10 and year 12 pupils in at any one time. Schools and colleges should consider how to best use this time to support those pupils who are starting their final year of study for GCSEs, A levels and other qualifications next academic year.'

We have been working with colleagues across the Cabot Learning Federation to establish a plan that will enable us to support our Year 10 students.

We will be holding Academic Review Meetings with all Year 10 students and their parents/ carers during week beginning 15th June 2020 to ascertain what further face to face provision they require to best support them prior to the summer holidays. Our intention is to have some Year 10 students returning to the Academy from Monday 22nd June 2020; however, the 'distance learning' remains the predominant model for the majority of students. Miss Peyton, our new Assistant Principal, will be heading up this provision for Year 10 and she will continue to communicate to parents/carers of Year 10 students about our plans as they are formulated in response to these Academic Review Meetings. To assist with this, we have produced a short information video detailing what to expect when you arrive at the Academy for your Academic Review Meeting or for onsite learning.

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For students in Years 7, 8 and 9 we will be continuing with distance learning, however, we will be re-launching this from Monday 15th June 2020 to include a set timetable for learning and more teacher input. This provision will remain located on Show My Homework but each learning session will have either a narrated blog or presentation from a subject specialist, or a recorded lesson to follow. It is hoped subject specialists will be available to talk through any subject related problems throughout the week – more details to follow. We continue to explore 'live lessons' as a delivery method but are conscious of the associated potential safeguarding risks. Mrs Hutchinson, Assistant Principal will be leading this distance learning provision. She will be producing an assembly for students to explain the changes in more detail.

Assigning leaders to these distinct provisions will enable myself and Mr O'Callaghan (Vice-Principal) to focus on the health and safety aspects of re-opening, strategic planning for next academic year and beyond, as well as overseeing all 3 provisions.

We are also working with the parents/carers of Year 6 pupils who will be joining us in September. Mr Coulstring is communicating with them directly on a regular basis. We are creating a virtual tour and still hope to be able to get some Year 6 pupils onsite before the end of this academic year.

In relation to our Year 11 students who would be nearing the end of their GCSE exam period now we are still encouraging you to prepare for your courses next year and undertake online courses such as first aid, driving theory and CV and letter writing.

In terms of wider re-opening to more students beyond those in Year 10, the government announced today that they are 'working to bring all children back to school in September at the earliest.' We will continue to follow guidance about further re-opening and will communicate this as soon as we are able to do so.

In the meantime if you have any concerns or questions please do use the HWAclosure@clf.uk email address.

Yours sincerely



Mr S T Kneller
Academy Principal