

20th May 2020



Inspiring Optimistic Learners

Dear parents and carers,

Re: College Update

There has been a significant amount of media coverage on the government's recent announcement of its plan to rebuild the UK for a world with COVID-19, its roadmap, and this includes the partial reopening of primary schools from 1st June which has been the source of great controversy. This is of course a highly politicised matter and the debate continues regarding the scientific basis upon which it has been determined that it is safe for children to start returning to schools. As a College, we continue to make plans for a partial reopening for Year 10 and 12 students at some point in June, with the remote learning provision continuing for all year groups throughout the remainder of this term. However, aligned to the government's plan, we will have to adapt and change our own plans as more is learnt along this very challenging journey. The aim of this letter is to give you an update on the current situation and what is being planned for the forthcoming weeks. Further updates will follow as we are working in a particularly dynamic and fast-changing environment, but please rest assured I will make every effort to keep you kept abreast of what is happening at the College.

Partial Reopening for Year 10 and 12 Students

The date of the partial reopening of the College for Year 10 and 12 students has not yet been confirmed. It is important that every effort is made to get all children back into education as soon as it is reasonably practicable and safe to do so, and this is the first stage of the process which is in line with national guidance. Thank you to our Year 10 and 12 parents who very promptly responded to our recent survey used to identify the number of students we could expect to attend College when it is reopened. This has helped inform our planning for a timetable of learning for these students, and to ensure the appropriate safety measures are in place to reduce the risk of increasing the rate of transmission amongst students and staff.

Work is ongoing to develop a part time timetable for these students and further details will be shared with you once they have been confirmed. The days in school will feel very different for the students – they will be in smaller class sizes (maximum 15), in different classrooms to the ones which they are familiar and there will be new routines and expectations students will have to follow to help mitigate the risk of transmitting the coronavirus disease. These include social distancing and good hand and respiratory hygiene.

Skeleton School – relocated to Sixth Form from 1st June

I am very grateful for the support of Carbeile Junior School in hosting our Skeleton School in their hub up to this point. However, as they make plans for their partial reopening to Year 6 students from 1st June, the College's Skeleton School for vulnerable children and children of key workers will relocate back to our Sixth Form with effect from Monday 1st June (they will initially not need to wear College uniform from 1st June but this will change as the College begins a phased reopening). All other arrangements remain unchanged. To support the safeguarding of our children, please notify the College if there is any change to your child's

planned attendance. Please also note that the Skeleton School will be closed over the forthcoming half term break (25th to 29th May).

How risks to students, teachers and families will be managed

The College is following the government's guidance on the implementation of protective measures in educational settings very closely in preparation for a partial reopening, and to help reduce the risk of transmission of the coronavirus disease as more children return to school. We are currently working through a range of protective measures that can be put in place. A Coronavirus (COVID-19) risk assessment has been completed; as has a risk assessment for the College's reopening. A Social Distancing Policy has also just been produced and sent to our governors for approval. More details on such measures, alongside our expectations of students' and parents' support, will be sent to you once we have firmer plans for the partial reopening, but will include:

- Increased and regular hand washing by students and staff
- Good respiratory hygiene by the promotion of the catch it, bin it, kill it approach
- Identification of students at increased risk
- Immediate self-isolation if displaying symptoms
- Additional staff supervision to ensure social distancing is maintained
- Maximum class sizes of 15 students – classroom furniture to be reorganised to maintain social distancing
- Staggered breaks (and separation between classes to be maintained)
- Increased signage
- Frequent cleaning of touched surfaces by the Housekeeping Team
- Equipment / object sharing to be discouraged as much as possible
- Provision of hand sanitisers, tissues and sanitising wipes in classrooms.

Remote learning

In the meantime, our 'remote learning provision' will continue for all students. You will have received information on how we are continuing to improve and develop that provision and the information can be found on our website.

Year 11 and 13 exam results

A significant amount of work has been completed to compile Year 11 and 13 students' exam grades and rankings which will be submitted to examination boards in the first two weeks of June. As I have previously stated, unfortunately we are unable to share any of this information with you but we are planning on handing out the results on 13th and 20th August for A Level and GCSEs respectively. The following link provides some very useful guidance which may be of interest to you:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/883150/Summer_2020_grades_for_GCSE_AS_A_level_guidance_for_teachers_students_parents_UPDATED_05_MAY2020_FINAL.pdf

Finally, thank you for all your support throughout this period of uncertainty. I understand how unsettling it has been for parents and students, and the anxiety and concern felt by many as we have had to navigate our way through this pandemic. We will continue to provide as much support as we can for all our students, irrespective of year group, and should you have any worries or concerns please do not hesitate to

contact the College. I will write again shortly with a further update on our position and how our plans are progressing for a partial reopening for our Year 10 and 12 students.

With my kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Plumb'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'J' and 'P'.

Dr Jeremy Plumb

Headteacher