

27 May 2020

Dear students and parents/guardians,

I hope that you and your families are coping at this challenging time.

You will have seen the Government's recent announcement about the possibility of opening schools and colleges for Year 12 students on 15 June 2020. We are therefore looking at the options for a partial reopening of the College for some students from this date. As I mentioned before, this will be for a very restricted number of students and by invitation only. There will be no requirement for the students invited to attend in person and each family will need to make their own decision based on their personal circumstances. This will also apply to the staff that work at the College. We recognise that a return to College will be challenging for many given the current restrictions on public transport, and some will face restrictions relating to their own health and that of family members.

Our focus therefore will be those students who require additional support in meeting the requirements to move into Year 13. These students will have a meeting with their Personal Tutor to assess progress and plan next steps and possibly undertake some small group work in specific subject areas. These meetings may be done in person (with appropriate precautions in place) or using Google Meet.

In terms of the wider Year 12 group, we are supporting them in progressing into Year 13 with dedicated sessions in the tutorial programme, which are continuing to be delivered online.

The vast majority of teaching will continue online until the end of this current academic year. We recognise that this way of teaching and learning is not perfect and we are working hard to respond to feedback (from students, parents/guardians and staff) about how things might be improved. There are training sessions planned for after this Reading Week so that staff can further develop their skills in remote teaching and plan for September, which is likely to be very different to previous years.

We are expecting an update from the Government on 28 May when they will establish whether students are able to resume some limited face to face contact in schools and colleges from 15 June. We will come to a view as to what is appropriate for our College once we have received the additional guidance from the Department for Education.

I will write to you again to keep you fully informed as the picture becomes clearer nationally and as our plans develop.

I know that many of you may be disappointed at this cautious approach, but the safety of the students and staff is my primary concern. This is a constantly changing landscape with advice coming from all directions, but please be reassured that we are working hard so that we can open the College to some students this side of the summer holidays unless the scientific advice changes.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

Best wishes,

**Catherine Cole**  
Principal