

25 June 2020

Dear parents/guardians and carers,

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you on what has been happening at College since the reopening on Monday 15 June 2020. As you know, we invited in those students who we had identified as having challenging circumstances to overcome and were in need of extra help; be it technology or a quiet place to work.

From Monday 29 June - Wednesday 8 July 2020, we will be inviting in a small number of students to specific curriculum areas in order for them to have tailored subject support.

Despite the fact that the Government has now reduced the two metre rule in some circumstances, we have decided to continue with our cautious approach and stay with the two metres apart rule. This is because the students will all be together in one place for a long time and it is important not to overload the atmosphere in small classrooms. We are working with 'bubbles' of five students per classroom in order to facilitate this.

If your child has been invited into College, they will have received an email asking them if they are available and able to come on site. We have a reserve list of students if the ones we initially invite can't come in.

We have issued very clear instructions for those students who have been invited on to the site. All students must adhere to these instructions, as well as general guidance on social distancing and handwashing, in order to keep themselves and others safe. There is hand sanitiser available in all of the rooms being used and we have allocated toilets. The students' names will be registered when they come in and they will be asked to sit according to a seating plan so that we can follow the Government guidance about track and trace.

We are not able to offer support in all subject areas - this may be because staff are shielding or have family or other commitments.

There continue to be external challenges which limit what we can offer which are beyond our control; access to regular public transport is still a big issue for example.

In terms of planning for the coming academic year, we have been working on what the timetable may look like. We are concerned that, as winter approaches, it may be necessary to have a further lockdown period. We are therefore working on two timetables, a 'normal' and an 'emergency' version, which can be switched depending on the circumstances. Because we offer all of the subjects in any combination to all students, our timetable is very challenging at the best of times, but this is even more difficult. The 'emergency' timetable would be a 'blended' version, incorporating a mixture of face to face and remote teaching and learning.

We thank you in advance for your continued support and understanding at this very challenging time.

Best wishes,

Catherine Cole
Principal