



22 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your wider family are well and staying safe. As always, I would like to thank you for your continued support of the College and your child's education during this time.

As referenced in my previous letter, the Government has stated the ambition that from 1 June secondary schools will be able *"to offer some face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 and Year 12 students who are due to take key exams next year"* in addition to the provision for the children of key workers and alongside the home learning provision available to all. I write today to inform you of what this may mean for your child after half-term, and to seek your input into our proposed way ahead.

From Monday 1 June, Heathfield Community College will be open, as it has been since 20 March, for children classed as priority groups: vulnerable or children of key workers. We are also planning, in line with the Government advice, for the partial and gradual return of some students so that we can supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 students. As set out in the government guidance *"This will not be a return to full timetables or pupils back in school or college full time, rather some support to supplement pupils' remote education"*.

We are planning this in accordance with the following three principles agreed in consultation with SLT, Governors and the Local Authority:

1. That any extension to provision is fair and equitable in:
 - Provision for all students as directed by government advice.
 - Maintaining reasonable workload for staff
 - Maintaining quality of provision for those not accessing face to face support.
2. That all provision is designed in accordance with DfE/PHE guidelines (including updates when available) on social distancing and health and safety, minimising the risk of transmission and movement of any populations on site. This includes the 5 conditions for being able to open that I detailed in my last letter.
3. That the College is able to maintain its duty to facilitate provision to children of key workers and vulnerable children in all year groups

As Headteacher, my priority is the safety and well-being of our students, and everyone who sets foot on the school premises. I would like nothing more than our vibrant, purposeful and happy school back together focused on our core purpose.

I outline below the steps we have taken and are taking to ensure that the measures we put in place are as safe as they can be and that we have met the conditions we set for ourselves in line with the government guidance. This includes provision for preparing the site, enabling space for



increased frequency of cleaning and hand washing, reducing shared spaces and equipment as well as “*minimising contact and mixing by altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times)*” including the advice that we seek to “*reduce transmission risk by ensuring children, young people and staff where possible, only mix in a small, consistent group and that small group stays away from other people and groups.*” (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>).

This plan, in essence attempts to provide support for those students in Years 9, 10 and 12 who have not been able to successfully access or sustain home learning for a range of reasons. It also attempts to provide a cycle of “face-to-face” support for Year 10 and 12 which we hope to extend to Year 9 if able later in the term. We have provided more detail in the last 2 pages of this letter but you may also wish to refer to the available government guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june#how-will-risks-to-children-teachers-and-families-be-managed>

YEAR 10: In order to best assess likely student numbers and therefore plan groups, as well as understanding any potential aspects to consider, we ask that **Year 10 parents** read the information on the attached document and below and then complete a survey to let us know your intentions in the light of our proposed plan

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfll6kl1kiTDqiNVLbnQFpX2Ga5LDhEXfO9yxFQu7U0MdNYsQ/viewform?usp=sf_link

YEAR 12: In order to best assess the support needed to set up the provision for **Year 12**, please read the details below and ensure that the survey has been completed to check we are able to support where necessary to allow all students to access the intended provision, it will also be sent to the students email addresses and either parent or student can complete:

<https://forms.gle/uDvYW2p6G6Cs4pag9>

Whilst your son/daughter may not be returning to the College site in the immediate future, please know that we are committed to ensuring a high-quality provision and level of communication for them and yourselves as parents as we move forward. Our principles set this out and I have previously been clear that we cannot sacrifice provision for one group in order to enhance that of another. Shortly after half term we will repeat our previous survey and seek to learn more about how we can continue to develop and improve the learning for these year groups in these circumstances.

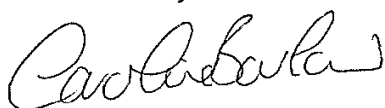
In order to ensure that the continued remote learning for Years 7, 8 and 9 remains of the highest quality and to be able to effectively plan for the face-to face support, I am enabling staff to take Monday 1 June as a Planning Day to get the approaches to Term 6 right. This does not mean there will be no work to complete! Work for this day will be on the super curriculum, available now, which we will send directly to students again for that day. This will also be an opportunity for students to catch up on any work if they have fallen behind. New work will commence as planned on Tuesday 2 June.

I must be clear at this stage however that we are only 10 days away from 1 June and we still do not have the up to date information from the government about whether their conditions have been met or are likely to be met on 1 June. Therefore, any final decision cannot be made until then. We are also aware that as of the last 24 hours the expectations may be moving at a national level and so we await the outcome of further announcements.

Whatever dates are agreed, *if* the conditions have not been met, or *if* the required equipment which we are ordering now to ensure the site is safe and resourced to meet the hygiene standards necessary has not arrived, then we will not be able to proceed with the plan. Hence, I will be updating you on or shortly after 1 June to confirm our next steps.

In the meantime, the safety of our students, staff, their families, and our wider school community remain our priority. I want to acknowledge at this time that I do understand how difficult this is. I know that for some year groups the reality of this news is a bitter disappointment and that for many, whatever we are able to provide will not be enough to satisfy the desire to return to learning, see friends and return to a “normal life”. All of this is really hard for all of us, thank you again for your continued support and understanding. It makes a big difference.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ms C Barlow', written in a cursive style.

MS C BARLOW
Headteacher