

Dear parents / carers,

As you are aware we are making plans for the return of year 10 and 12 whilst we all await the government's announcement on the 28th May.

Student welfare is imperative, this is why we will be making contact with all parents again during the first week of next half term. Year 10 and 12 will be the first priority in order to determine how many will be registered as wanting to return to school, despite the risks this could present.

I believe the most valuable contact we can have with our students is to teach them whilst I recognise that whatever contact time we can arrange will be limited. For example, year 10 option subjects may have only 1.5 hours per week and not 3 hours. Considering the time lost already and what will be lost in the future, year 10 and 12 students will clearly not be suitably prepared for their examinations in 2021. The plan for students to return to school is not about the school's examination performance information; it is about educating our young people in the safest environment we can create. Schools have a purpose and that is to prepare our young people to become the successful adults of the future. They deserve to experience the benefits of school (remember our expectations of what school implies must change) even if it is within a tightly controlled environment.

Whilst many of us may not agree with the government's 1st June date, they are quite clear that schools will reopen from that date 'if' certain conditions are met. Whilst I know there are 5 'tests', there are also other factors that need to be considered such as the individual circumstances in which schools operate. The DfE has recognised that each school must risk assess its own environment (our risk assessment is attached which will alter as circumstances, advice and feedback grows). It is clear that by following the government's guidelines we can create a suitable environment for students and staff to work together. Does reopening the school to years 10 and 12 increase the risk to all of us through the interaction between students and staff? Obviously the risk of infection does increase but we will be taking such actions as:-

- Staggering start times (one year 10 and 12 group at a time will be welcomed onto site)
- Entrance / exit to the site through limited points
- Lessons will take place in the science labs (these have sinks for washing hands and are near toilet facilities for staff and students)
- Limiting student and staff movement around the site whilst facilitating cleaning
- Controlling entrance into the building (some of the labs have fire exits opening onto the North road)
- Cleaning of rooms between the morning and afternoon sessions
- Students will not be able to interact beyond their group of students – there will be no break or lunchtime
- Students will be reminded not to gather in groups on the way to / from school with the police informed of our intent and then of the date (if) we expand our provision
- Social distancing will be maintained at all times

During the week beginning 1st June, we will determine from the year 10/12 parental responses what our detailed planning for reopening the school will be. If we do open, the earliest date will be during the week starting 8th June. We will initially reopen to year 12 first to allow staff to refine their procedures and our risk assessment in order to safely welcome back the larger number of students within year 10.



At this point we must face reality. Students in current years 7, 8 and 9 will not be returning to school until September at the earliest. As a parent of a year 8 student myself, the disadvantages of 'home learning' are obvious from both a teacher and parent's perspective. The difficulties which students in these year groups face is also obvious to myself through personal experience. Again realistically we have to be prepared for September not being an immediate start for all students of all year groups at the same time as normally takes place. It is clearly unrealistic for 1150 students and 140 adults to mix in an uncontrolled manner.

We look forward to welcoming our students back to school. I am positive that your children will appreciate the work that staff are preparing in order to deliver lessons in the safest environment. But please note students will have no time to meet friends, with poor behaviour resulting in parents being contact to take their child home. Whilst we as school staff understand that young people make the wrong behaviour choices under normal circumstances, we are now working in extraordinary ones. Therefore I expect all students if they come to school to make the right behaviour choices. In other words why would we accept students into school whose behaviour potentially puts others at risk?

Next week is the half term holiday. I have informed teaching staff that they are not to set work or respond to emails from students or parents; we will maintain contact with those parents with whom we are in regular contact over the holiday period. If you have a safeguarding concern about your child this is to be reported to our safeguarding staff Mrs Matthew amatthew@stpetershuntingdon.org or Mrs Cox jcox@stpetershuntingdon.org who along with other staff will be working over the holiday period.

Please keep safe and well

Christopher Bennet