

5<sup>th</sup> June 2020



King Henry VIII Senior School  
Warwick Road  
Coventry  
CV3 6AQ

Headmaster: Jason Slack BSc, MA Ed

Dear Parent,

I trust that you are well. We have only been back in school one week but so much has happened it seems like longer. Regardless, I hope that you managed to enjoy some of the good weather during the half term break and that you also gained some precious time away from a screen!

### **Year 12 and Year 10 'Face to Face Support'**

In my last letter, dated 21<sup>st</sup> May, I explained that I was waiting for further Government guidance to be released regarding how secondary schools would be able to accommodate 'face to face support' for pupils in Year 10 and 12. I was keen to start planning how we could implement any provision. This guidance was eventually published on Bank Holiday Sunday and was further updated on 1<sup>st</sup> June. The guidance can be found here:

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus/education-and-childcare>

There are two very significant and limiting factors given in this guidance. Firstly, the date that pupils in Year 10 and Year 12 could return to school was changed to 15<sup>th</sup> June at the earliest. Secondly, only a quarter of these year groups should attend during any one day (and in bubbles of no more than 15). The guidance about bubbles means that pupils cannot change groups. This makes it impossible to run anything like a normal timetable. Other considerations remain unclear such as any time limit within which pupils are able to switch 'bubbles'.

Regardless, a huge amount of work has been undertaken in consultation with Staff and Governors on how we might get pupils from these year groups into school for a short period of time. Risk assessments have been drafted and considered as the safety of our community remains a priority. Our provisional plans currently comprise:

#### ***Stage 1 – w/c 15<sup>th</sup> June (Year 10)***

All sciences in Year 10 are taught with pupils in the same teaching groups of about 22 pupils. These are the only subjects where pupil groupings are consistent and so represent an opportunity to teach some subjects without the need for pupils to switch groups. There are 5 teaching groups in total within the year group. It is planned that each group will come into school on one separate day (Mon - Fri) and be split into 2 halves. Each half group will form a 'bubble' for the day and have a 75 minute lesson in each of Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Games. Further details will follow next week regarding which day your child will be in school and specific arrangements as to how the day will operate.

I am aware that for very good reasons, not all pupils will be in a position to attend school. I am keen to ascertain numbers that we might expect during the week. I would be grateful if parents in Year 10 would complete this brief questionnaire before 12 noon on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June. I am aware that this initial indication may well change and I am happy to accept some uncertainty. I am just after an outline number to start with.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=pINqlrqdr0uhXeo5eB2Y9nxfMO4JioxLjSwNiJqMrAhUNki4WVdTMUVINU01Wk1RMTI1MkRLWkRZWC4u>

### ***Stage 2 – w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> June (Year 12)***

I am planning a day of pastoral support, study skills and careers mentoring for all Year 12 pupils. Each tutor group will form its own 'bubble' and there will be just two tutor groups invited into school on any particular day. Mrs Dowding, Head of Sixth Form, is putting together a program that will support the pupils with sessions on end of year examination review, UCAS advice, study skills, etc. This will include a 1:1 meeting with a member of the sixth form pastoral team for all Year 12 pupils. Again, further details will follow to Year 12 parents in due course.

### ***Stage 3 – w/c 29<sup>th</sup> June (Year 10)***

All Year 10 pupils will come into school for part of a day to receive pastoral support and target setting. This may not be as extensive as the Year 12 program but will include a 1:1 meeting with a member of the pastoral team to undertake activities such as exam review and target setting. In addition, we have prioritised some option subjects that have a greater practical aspect to their taught content and that would benefit most from time with pupils in school. Mr Sewell, Deputy Head, is looking at ways of timetabling pupils into 'bubbles' to give them some time with subject teachers in these subjects. It is worth pointing out that this is a very complicated task and we are hoping that further Government guidance will make this task clearer (and easier!). It is also worth pointing out that some pupils who do not take one of the identified subjects may not receive a lesson in their option subjects. Please be reassured that all Heads of Department have been consulted on this issue to ensure that taught content is being covered with regard to exam board specifications. I am afraid that it has proven impossible to give all pupils a lesson in all of their core and optional subjects without mixing 'bubbles' in a way that contravenes current guidelines.

### ***Stage 4 – Before the end of term (Year 12)***

Arrangements will be made for online consultations between pupils, parents, and subject teachers. These will happen remotely and over an extended period of time during the last few weeks of term. Teachers will be available for appointment to give subject specific feedback on progress through the A level course and to give guidance and direction for future development into next academic year. Again, further details will follow.

### **Pre A level Teaching and Year 11**

Thank you to all parents who have expressed appreciation and support for the Pre A level teaching that has been delivered to current Year 11 pupils. Teachers have been full of praise for the engagement of these lessons by the vast majority of pupils and I understand that a great deal of progress has been made in preparation for A level courses. These lessons will stop at the end of next week (Friday 12<sup>th</sup> June) although some subjects may give further advice on independent study and wider reading for the summer. However, no further timetabled lessons will be delivered after that date.

## Years 7, 8, and 9

Online teaching for the rest of the school will carry on as normal until the end of term. This will be punctuated by the occasional day of different activities, such as the Sports Day that we have planned on the 24<sup>th</sup> June. Pupils in these year groups will have spent much of this last week going through end of year examinations and learning from this experience. Pupils will continue to cover subject content in the manner to which we have now become accustomed. I would ask, however, for some understanding of the frequency of 'live lessons' during periods when teachers are in school and delivering lessons to Years 10 and 12. I am sorry if this feels a little unfair but hope that you will understand our commitment to following Government guidance and our desire to help pupils with important external examinations on the horizon. I don't believe that there will be too much disruption or change in this regard for other year groups.

## Supervision of Children of 'Keyworkers'

This provision has now moved back to King Henry VIII Senior School for our pupils as the site starts to 're-open'. Numbers attending are starting to grow a little as more parents are going back to their own jobs. This service will continue. I would ask parents who want to access this provision to please contact Mr Sewell, ([sewellr@khviii.net](mailto:sewellr@khviii.net)), with at least 24 hours notice (but preferably more!), as we will clearly need to plan carefully if numbers continue to grow.

It has been positive to plan for accommodating more pupils on site and it will be wonderful to welcome more pupils into their school as we start to slowly re-open. However, I realise that this may cause anxiety for some pupils and parents. All staff at school remain committed to supporting all of our pupils during the current challenges. Please do not hesitate to contact me or a member of staff should you wish to discuss any of our plans in the coming weeks. Please be reassured of our priority to maintain the safety and welfare of your children.

Yours sincerely,



J. Slack  
Headmaster