

22nd May 2020

Redwing Drive Weston-super-Mare North Somerset BS22 8XX

Tel: 01934 510777 Fax: 01934 520941 email: admin@worle-school.org.uk www.worle-school.org.uk



Dear Parents and Carers

Please forgive the length of this letter, but it contains a great deal of important information regarding the potential reopening of school for Years 10 students.

In the information released by the government, following the Prime Minister's statements a few weeks ago, they made specific reference to students in Years 10 as follows:

For pupils in Years 10 (and 12), we are asking schools and colleges to supplement remote education with some face to face support for these year groups. We do not expect these pupils to return to school or college on a full-time basis at this stage, and so we do not expect a full timetable to be offered as schools and colleges. Schools and colleges should consider how to best use additional year 10 (and 12 time) to support those pupils who are starting their final year of study for GCSEs, A levels and other qualifications next academic year.

We have spent the past weeks making detailed plans that will enable us to provide this vital face to face support to our students during this critical phase in their education. The basis of all of our discussions have been focussed on how can we do this whilst ensuring the safety of all students and staff as well as everyone's families and our whole community.

As you will be aware we have been open every day, including over the holidays, for the children of key workers and vulnerable children since the government introduced the national social distancing measures. This has enabled us to ensure that our detailed risk assessments are based upon existing working practices that we have been using to ensure the safety of the whole school community.

We are now developing plans that will enable us to potentially open school more extensively from some point in Term 6 for students in Year 10, whilst maintaining the existing provision for those children who are either defined as vulnerable or whose parents are key workers. Further details about the provision for Years 10 will be shared closer to the date of reopening. What is clear at this stage, is that the Years 10 provision will only involve small numbers of students attending school on different days. This will allow us to facilitate the face to face contact with the students whilst at the same time ensuring social distancing and good hygiene are managed effectively. Home learning will also still be necessary for students in Years 10, to support what they do in class and to help them with the subjects that they are not doing in school.



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Students in Years 7-9, will continue to receive work and support at home in the same way as they have for the past few months. At this stage we have received no guidance about a return to school for these students.

The actual decision on our reopening will be reliant on scientific tests set out by the government and which will be reviewed on 28 May. The government's roadmap says: "It is possible that the dates will be delayed if these conditions are not met."

I'm sure you will have many questions following the reading of this letter and I will endeavour to answer these in future communications. Please be reassured that you will receive all the detail you need to make an informed decision about sending your child back to school safely. If you have any questions on the information I have shared, please do not hesitate to contact us.

As a school we are trying to do our very best to support all members of our community during these very challenging and difficult times.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to welcoming your sons and daughters back to school, albeit, a very different type of school to the one they were last in.

Best wishes and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Miss J Scott Principal

Gail Webby

Mrs G Webb MBE School Improvement Partner