



5 June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you, your families and friends healthy, and your children well rested after a complete break from school work and screens over half term.

Since our last correspondence we have been very busy planning for the final half term of this most unusual year. Risk assessments and infrastructure changes to support the safe return of more students and staff on site before the summer holidays have been our focus and we have made some good progress, working closely with Nova and Nottinghamshire County Council, and of course following Government guidance.

This week on-line learning on MS TEAMS has re-commenced for all year groups and on-site we have safely supervised a larger number of Key Worker and Vulnerable students, in line with Government expectations. We have also been celebrating the tremendous engagement and high quality learning by our students in all year groups this week in our Achievement Assemblies. Heads of Year were inundated with teacher nominations before half term and we are extremely proud of all our students' hard work and commitment, duly recognised through these assemblies. Whilst our Year 10 and 12 students may look forward to some face to face teaching on-site this term, the resilience and patience of our Year 7, 8 and 9 students, for whom an autumn return is likely, has been remarkable.

On-site this week we have delivered Health and Safety training to three quarters of our staff, in small groups, allowing social distancing and safe hygiene and cleaning practices. By the middle of next week all staff will have received rigorous training to ensure their safety on the site and equip them to lead our children safely when they begin to return. In the first instance this will be our Year 10 and 12 students, as outlined by the Government, due to the proximity of their examinations next year, and this is likely to be no more than one day per week, given current restrictions.

We have established a new video calling platform and protocol to enable tutors to safely video call Year 10 students and their parents/carers from school, in the first instance. The initial feedback from calls made already this week has been hugely positive and a most welcome step forward in our personal communication with Year 10s as we take a step closer to some face to face teaching on site this term, as outlined by the Government last month. At the time of writing we are ready to extend this system to Year 12 students and look forward to starting our video conversations with this year group from next week. With lots of calls to

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make on a new system, please bear with us as we introduce this next phase of communication which is likely to take a fortnight or so for these year groups. During this time staff will of course continue to set work for all students (Years 7 - 10 and 12) on MS TEAMS but ongoing feedback will be limited due to the time committed by our team of tutors to making these calls.

Meanwhile, we will continue to adapt the infrastructure and operations of the school to safely accommodate more staff on site and some small group teaching later this month, if all goes to plan. At the time of writing our two major toilet refurbishments, in the English and Geography blocks, remain a little behind schedule due to lock down disruptions and whilst we hope they will be completed by the middle of this month, we need this to be confirmed before we can increase the number of students on site further, due to limited facilities elsewhere on the site and greater demand due to social distancing and hand washing requirements in order to stay safe. I am pleased to report that we have secured the funding to renovate the Maths and Science toilets too, later this term, to provide our students with the high quality facilities they deserve and of course support the need for regular hand washing throughout the day.

In our previous letter we shared a timeline that indicated our video calls to Years 10 and 12 would take us up to 19 June 2020, with on-line learning continuing for all other groups during this time. At the moment we remain on track with this plan and we will get in touch with Year 10 and 12 parents/carers next week to share our risk assessment and survey parents'/carers' intentions regarding sending students into school. This will inform our next stage of planning for some on-site learning later in the month, in line with Government expectations, should the national and local picture remain safe and the guidance from Government not change its trajectory.

Thank you for continuing to keep in touch, sharing your children's challenges and achievements, of which there have been so many. Spending time with students at 'Hot Chocolate with the Head' on Friday mornings used to be a highlight of my week. Thankfully your communications ensure news of extraordinary student kindness, innovation, talent, independence, resilience and effort continue to reach my inbox and very much remain the highlight of my week.

I remain extremely grateful for your committed support during this time and continue to look forward to a brighter future when we can be back together at Toot Hill School learning and caring for each other.

Take care.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Paley
Head of School