



6 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families are safe and well. Since our last correspondence, we have been able to safely provide onsite teaching for small groups of Year 10 and 12 students. I am pleased to report that these two weeks have been a resounding success thanks to the maturity of our students, the commitment of our staff and your support, particularly in ensuring your child can safely travel to and from school, and arrive equipped to learn within our strict routines that have enabled us to open as lockdown eases.

Our stringent protocols and the logistics of our 'hubs' and 'bubbles' have ensured that students and staff have been able to adhere to the 2-metre social distancing guidelines at all times. Year 10s have been taught English, Maths and Science on a weekly basis in this manner and our Year 12 students have been back in the classroom for all of the option subjects during the past fortnight.

Our strong hygiene practices and protocols, and the excellent compliance of staff and students has enabled us to safely increase the hours Year 10 students have attended school last week to include a further three hours of teaching of Modern Foreign Languages or additional time for English and Maths. Similarly, this week marks a small increase in onsite lesson time for Year 12 students within Government guidelines. This provision will bring us to maximum capacity under the 2-metre social distancing guidelines and will remain in place for the final fortnight of the term.

Whilst this is a huge step forward in terms of school opening and restarting our face to face teaching for these students who are likely to have approximately 30 school weeks until their GCSE and A level examinations, it remains a very limited provision compared to what the Government has asked us to provide for all children from September under the new guidance we received on Thursday 2 July 2020. We are absolutely committed to bringing all children back to school safely under these guidelines and are busy planning several models already.

Maintaining safe practices whilst protecting our children's entitlement to a broad curriculum taught by subject specialists sits at the heart of our planning. This is a complex challenge on our unique site, within our unique catchment from which almost 70% of our students travel to school by bus and we will work tirelessly with NCC, Nova Education Trust and our

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Governors to deliver a safe, high quality onsite provision for all, within the Government guidelines. All details are unlikely to be confirmed by the end of this term but we will keep in touch with you over the summer to share these details before your child's return.

During the last fortnight all students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have been receiving video lessons or narrated PPTs to supplement their on line learning and the feedback received has been very positive regarding the impact of this. Huge thanks for your patience and resilience as this provision remains completely remote. Our team of KS3 tutors are committed to continuing their personal phone calls so that they will have spoken personally to all students by the end of term. We have also been welcoming our incoming Year 7 students and their families, from our primary schools, through our newly developed remote transition programme – another challenge we have all had to overcome and be patient with!

It is at this time of year that we usually look forward to the enrichment opportunities afforded to our students through the annual end-of-year celebration that is Activities Week. Given the Covid-19 situation and the 12 weeks of school closure we have all experienced to date, we will continue to provide the current level of learning provision to all year groups during the final week of term, with Year 10 and 12 students maintaining their current timetables onsite and Year 7 – 9 students continuing their remote learning schedule. Following this final week we insist that all students pack away their lap tops, close their books and have a complete break for the summer holidays!

As we look forward to September there has been much talk in the national media of how schools should enact a 'recovery' plan once students return. At Toot Hill School, we strongly believe that it is high quality teaching, by specialist staff, in the classroom, enabled by the highest standards of behaviour, which will allow for the strongest recovery possible. Our whole school planning will focus on supporting this commitment and we will share outline plans with you prior to the summer break. Our Heads of Department have already been strategically amending subject curricula with this in mind and their teams are ready to deliver these. During the last couple of weeks we have installed state-of-the-art high definition display screens in over 50 classrooms across the school, which will provide a much improved physical learning environment for our students on their return. We will of course invest heavily in measures to provide additional learning support such as online revision platforms, some smaller group teaching where possible and personal tutors, as committed by the Government last month. We will also provide planners for all, free of charge, from day one to ensure that our students quickly adapt to the organisational needs of the school week.

Understandably, many parents have requested clarification around uniform for September to enable plenty of time to source. In line with the new Government guidance we will see a return to full school uniform in September.

"We are, however, encouraging all schools to return to their usual uniform policies in the autumn term. Uniforms do not need to be cleaned any more often than usual, or in any different way to normal due to coronavirus (COVID-19)."

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Consequently, we ask for your support over the summer in ensuring your child is equipped with a full school uniform, PE kit, fully-equipped pencil case and calculator ready to make the most of learning onsite, as soon as they return in September.

We thank you for your continued regular contact with your child's tutor. If additional pastoral support is needed, please do not hesitate to let their tutor know.

Thank you for your continued support through these challenging times.

Yours sincerely



Mrs S Paley
Head of School



Dr C Eardley
Senior Deputy Headteacher