

13th May 2020



Etone College
www.etonecollege.co.uk

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you and your families are well and keeping safe during this challenging time. I am sure you will have seen that the Department for Education (DfE) have published a series of guidance documents, following the publication of the Prime Minister's [recovery strategy](#).

I am writing to inform you about the common principles in which we will be moving forward from this point. These principles are:

1. The obligation to ensure the safety of pupils, parents and staff;
2. A commitment to the welfare and wellbeing of pupils and staff;
3. Approaching the planning and delivery phase in a measured and deliberate way; and
4. Making the best possible decisions, in collaboration with others, on the basis of the evidence we have and within the constraints and parameters we face in our school and trust.

At this current time there are daily changes and updates to Government documentation and advice for schools. We are working hard to gain greater clarity and answers to the many areas of concern that you may have and will keep you updated at the earliest available opportunity. Rest assured, safety is our utmost priority.

Next steps for the phased, wider opening of schools

The DfE has published a suite of guidance documents. The first thing to say is that the **1st June is the earliest date** - it marks the beginning of a cautious, planned approach to opening schools more widely and is dependent upon scientific evidence and the most up to date assessment of the risk posed by the virus.

We plan, from 1st June, to begin to open more widely for Year 10 and 12 pupils only, unless the current situation changes and depending on what our planning and risk assessments tell us. We will make the best possible decision about what is workable in the safest timescales.

Only Year 10 and 12 have been prioritised by the Government because they are preparing for key examinations next year, and are most at risk of falling behind due to time out of school or college. **From 1 June 2020, at the earliest**, we expect that we will be able to offer some face to face contact with Year 10 and Year 12 pupils. **This will not be a return to full timetables or pupils back in school full time**, rather some support to supplement pupils' remote education. In line with implementing protective measures and reducing contacts, schools are being asked to limit the attendance of Year 10 and 12 at any one time and to keep pupils in small groups – not their usual teaching groups. **We are working on these plans at the moment and more detailed information will follow.**



Guidance for parents

Alongside the guidance on actions to prepare for opening more widely and protective measures, the DfE also published [guidance for parents](#). It sets out which groups are expected to return to school, expectations of attendance and a Q&A.

Attendance

No one with symptoms should attend a setting for any reason. Eligible children, including priority groups, are encouraged to attend school, unless they are self-isolating or they are clinically vulnerable (in which case they should follow medical advice). If someone in their household is extremely clinically vulnerable, they should only attend if stringent social distancing can be adhered to.

It is not compulsory for eligible children to attend school, however, we encourage children to attend as requested unless they are self-isolating or there are other reasons for absence.

Parents will not be fined for non-attendance at this time.

At the beginning of next week I will aim to follow on with more detail regarding our plans for Year 10 and 12, to supplement home learning.

For all year groups, including Year 10 and 12, staff will continue to provide work and resources via email groups and online platforms. Many of your children have been working hard and we are incredibly proud of the way they are embracing their learning and also of the work that they have produced. I particularly love to see regular “shout outs” on Twitter for individual stars who have gone above and beyond!!

Thank you all, once again, for your continued patience and support during this period. I am sure that together, we will come through this for the better having learned so much about ourselves and what is really important in our lives.

Rest assured you will be updated with any changes as they happen. In the meantime, stay safe and take care.

Yours faithfully



Mr I Smith
Headteacher