

Dear Parent/Carer

05 June 2020

RE: Provision of “face to face” contact for Year 10/12 pupils

I've no doubt that you will have been following, as I have, with much interest and differing viewpoints, this topic in the media. Initially this was targeted for the primary phase and now for year groups from the secondary phase.

The Government has advised the following measures for reopening to more pupils from the 15th June 2020:

- (Secondary) Provide some face-to-face support to pupils in Year 10 and Year 12 to support home learning
- Split classes into smaller groups
- Keep groups apart as much as possible
- Maintain social distancing within groups
- Stagger timings to reduce contact at peak times
- Enhance hygiene practices

In addition, the following detail has been clarified:

- No more than 25% of a year group onsite at any one time
- Ensure safe journeys to schools as much as possible and avoid peak travel times
- Continue existing provision for the children of key workers and for vulnerable pupils

I have followed the national discussions and been involved in local discussions about how this requirement might be put in place. This is in the context of no definition from the DfE of what ‘face to face’ meetings involve and continued national debates about the safety and well-being of staff and pupils.

I am clear that, in spite of national guidance about the need to address the needs of providing for these year groups, the final decision about whether this can be achieved lies with individual schools.

I've consulted widely with governors, parents, individual staff and with those representing the interests and working conditions of teaching and non-teaching staff.

I've made it very clear that the safety and well-being of staff and pupils lies at the heart of any local, Academy based, decision taken and overrides any other consideration.

We are required to carry out a comprehensive risk assessment to demonstrate that we are confident we can safely reopen for these year groups. The risk assessment, as far as we are able, complies with national and local expectations of safe provision for staff and pupils.

We are finalising detailed planning for some provision for Year 10 and Year 12. This involves:

- 25% of each year group onsite for one day a week for four weeks **from 15th June 2020**
- Timings from **10am to 3pm Monday to Thursday**
- Pupils on site **for one day per week** until the end of term
- Working in groups of up to 10 in a downstairs room with social distancing measures in place
- Clear distancing signage and a one-way corridor system
- Significant protection and hygiene measures including multiple sanitisers
- PPE provision for staff
- Regular cleaning throughout the day with deep cleaning at the end of each day and very deep cleaning of all areas in use every Friday

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It will help with our planning if you can give us an indication of whether you intend to take advantage of this provision and ensure your child attends. I can assure you that attendance isn't obligatory and that there will be no repercussions if you decide not to be involved. If you do intend to send your child to the Academy please email enquiries@skiddersacademy.org.uk providing your child's full name and advisory group as soon as possible.

Final details of groupings, and the allocated day planned for each group along with further information will be sent to parents/carers early next week.

Our provision of activities and materials for home working will continue for all year groups up to the end of term in addition to the Year 10/12 on site provision. Teams based lessons should now be being prioritised to improve offer of remote learning and feedback (feedback as a key vehicle for supporting pupils).

As yet, we have not received any information about plans for any other year groups or about likely provision for the new school year from September 2020.

With best regards and with thanks, as ever, for your ongoing support and understanding.

Your sincerely



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