



Update 15th May 2020

I have started each and every update by wishing you and your families well in these difficult and unprecedented circumstances. As we enter a period of increased uncertainty post lockdown, I must reiterate that everything we have done so far and will do in the future, is based upon the health and safety of our entire community. The Department for Education outlined plans for schools to partially reopen from June 1st. In our case, this involves year 10 students only. Years 7, 8 & 9 students will not be returning to school until September. The government's justification for year 10 priority, matches the approach which we have taken throughout school closure. These students are mid-way through completing their GCSE courses and ensuring they are fully prepared for these exams in 2021, is vital for their futures. Once again, thank you all for your messages of support with regards to how we have personalised provision for year 10.

So, what next? We have begun a planning process to consider how and when year 10 can return to school. I hope to communicate this with parents / carers early next week. It has been made clear to schools that parents will face 'no penalties' if they choose not to send their child back to school before September. I think it is important that I mention this now. It is entirely the decision of parents / carers whether you choose to send your children back to school. However, before making a decision on this, please wait until I have provided you with all of the information you require in next week's year 10 specific update. Throughout the school closure, I have tried to keep you fully informed as to what is going on within school, locally and nationally. I intend to continue in the same vein. I have kept social media interaction to a bare minimum deliberately, as in my opinion, this is for 'social' information, such as the brilliant student videos. Professional communication has all been done via the website and e-mail. This information is always based on government advice, facts, experience and hopefully avoids any rumours or occasionally uninformed opinions that can materialise on social media. I simply don't think this is helpful and leads to increased anxiety.

- **Years 7, 8 & 9**

Years 7, 8 and 9 are not forgotten! I have asked two members of my leadership team to review current provision to ensure it continues to meet the educational requirements of all of our students. Once again, if we change our approach, this will be communicated appropriately. Thank you to everyone who has sent messages and e-mails in support of the teachers and staff at Woodham Academy. I always forward these on so everyone can see them.

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- **Reports for parents**

It was with regret that we had to cancel the Year 7 Parents' Evenings due to the Covid-19 situation. For many, this would have been the first chance to speak to your child's teachers, putting a face to a name and checking on progress. Therefore, we will be providing a year 7 specific report, containing a pen portrait of the teachers involved, hopefully adding sufficient detail. We intend to hold a Parent's Evening for the current year 7 as early as possible in the new year. Parents / carers of pupils in year 8, 9 & 10 will receive a report as per previous years, before the summer holidays begin.

I will finish this update the same way that I started. Everything we have done so far at Woodham Academy has been based around the quality of education and safety. We will never deviate from this.

Stay safe (and alert),

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A.P. Bell". The letters are cursive and connected.

Andrew Bell
Headteacher