



21st May 2020

Dear parent / carer,

RE: YEAR 10 STUDENTS

I wrote to you last week outlining my intention to provide you with a plan to reopen the school for year 10 before the summer holidays. We have been hard at work trying to ensure that we can welcome year 10 safely back into the building, but also provide them with the suitable quality of education. I think everybody is in agreement that the main reason to bring students back into school is to educate them well.

As I write this update, we unfortunately are still without the government advice required to safely distribute a plan to parents and carers. It is also clear that the regional variations in infection rate will have an impact on the opening of schools. Recent COVID-19 cases in Newton Aycliffe have highlighted that the infection is within our community, therefore it is vital that, as and when we bring year 10 into the building, safety has to be our number 1 priority. I can tell you that our plan currently would involve students coming into school in small groups of approximately 30 (or 'bubbles' as it is being referred to in documentation). These groups could then be split into smaller groups throughout the day. Students would only be in school for one day per week. The overriding principle about this plan is to reduce the risk of cross contamination / spreading the infection.

I know that some schools have already begun to survey their parents / carers as to whether they intend to send their children back to school once it is open. Many of you will have made a decision already as to whether you intend to send your children back, but I also anticipate that some of you would prefer to wait until further details are available. It would very much help our planning if you could complete the survey contained within the link below. (survey deadline Monday 25th May at 10am)

Survey link: <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=iJrtcFPgd02w1-6qDr3V6NuoVA1Z71JAhtxJC3eFUUVUNVFLUkhBOEtYWFFTTlhHTE5PWDRFQTdXOS4u>

We all want to have your children back into school. It's what we all love about the job, but we also care about them and don't want to put them in danger. I am confident that we can create a plan in the coming days that will meet the needs of our community and get us all back to some sense of normality. As I read this week, can anyone remember 'precedented' times?

Thank you for your continued support,

Andrew Bell
Headteacher

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