

Tuesday 26th May 2020

Dear Year 12 Parents,

I hope that this email finds you and your families safe and well.

Thank you to everyone who has kindly been completing the online questionnaire about the possibility of their child returning to school. It has been invaluable, informing our plans and preparations.

I wrote to you earlier this week to let you know that we are actively responding to the government's announcement about the possibility of providing an in school programme for Years 10 and 12 after half term. As is to be expected, the situation is a constantly evolving one and things have moved on apace.

Secondary schools were expecting government guidance on Tuesday this week as to exactly what such an in school programme might look like. That guidance has not yet been forthcoming, and on Sunday 24th May the Prime Minister announced that the phased reopening of school for Year 10 & 12 would start on 15th June, with up to "a quarter of students being in school at any point". We therefore feel it's important to be fully informed before we confirm the details of any plans.

However, we have continued to develop our plans on the basis that students will obviously eventually be returning to school. This will include a detailed and comprehensive risk assessment which we will share with you in advance of any return. We recognise that it is important that you are as fully informed as possible, so that you can make a balanced, informed judgement about whether or not you will allow your child to return to school whenever that might be.

In light of these changes, our plan for Year 12 will adapt to prepare for a phased return of Year 12 from 15th June. We will of course provide more details as these plans evolve.

We will continue with our plans to complete detailed Welfare checks with our students from Tuesday 2nd June - these will take place remotely (phone calls). Students will be given appointment time to receive a call. In some cases, calls will be made by staff mobiles, so their number will be withheld for safeguarding reasons. Please make sure that they are prepared and ready. The call will cover the following:

- General welfare check on health & wellbeing*
- Concerns/questions on phased return (students)*
- Academic progress*

## *Issues regarding ICT/remote learning*

### *Assessment Week 2 update (A-Level) - remote assessments*

I know that A-Level, Btec & RSL students have/will be given deadlines and schedules to complete assessed work. Any assessments are not meant to create anxiety, they are to be used by teaching staff to measure the level of understanding and knowledge of students in order to plan learning for the next term & beyond. No students will be disadvantaged, sharing any concerns or issues is very important at this stage.

Whatever happens, remote learning will continue for all classes over the next half term. Moving into the next half term, you will expect to see a more interactive approach to setting tasks remotely, one that will involve a more personalised touch from your teachers. Whilst we are aware that it is not necessarily realistic or appropriate to deliver a day exactly like the experience a child would expect in school, teachers will guide their students more interactively through the tasks they set. We will be making greater use of online software that allows for the use of audio and video. A blended approach to learning in Key Stage 5 will see students attending tutorials in school while continuing their learning remotely, somewhat similar to a university model of learning..

## **Communications**

Staff have been working tirelessly to call home and check in with students in their form groups - this is likely to have been from a withheld number. We've had some difficulties calling homes from outside school - some service providers/phones allow for calls from withheld numbers, and others don't. Please remember that your child can communicate with their form tutor via their google classroom or through their school gmail account. Subject teachers can be contacted in a similar way too. Please remember to ensure that you inform us of any changes to your contact details.

Please keep up to date with all communications sent - copies are always posted on the website on the letters and communications page under the Parents Tab.

## **Collecting and Returning Hard Copies of Work**

Where families have requested work as hard copy, this should be collected from the school office, if it is safe to do so. Please be advised that reception opening hours are from 9am - 1:30pm and that parents must make arrangements for pick up prior to collection with the school [post@thenorwoodschool.org](mailto:post@thenorwoodschool.org) to ensure that copies are ready.

We are sure that you would like to join us in thanking our amazing premises team, headed up by a new member of staff Mr Donohoe, who have been working tirelessly at incredibly short notice to prepare the site for our eventual safe return.

Thank you again for all your continuing support, encouragement and kind messages. We do really miss the children and are all looking forward to a time when we can all be back together.

Wishing you and your families a safe and pleasant half term break,  
Take care and stay safe,

Mrs Webster  
Head Teacher