

Wednesday 20th May, 2020.



Penketh High School

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you with our arrangements for a proposed return to school for children as a school within The Challenge Academy Trust. We have worked closely with Warrington Local Authority to ensure our proposals are in line with other Warrington schools.

As you are aware, schools have been open only for the children of critical workers and for vulnerable pupils during weekdays, including holiday periods and bank holidays. The government is now asking schools and childcare settings to plan for a gradual further opening for more children to return to school.

The government have prioritised Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 and have asked schools to plan some face to face time for pupils in Years 10. This means, unfortunately, it's likely that pupils in Year 7, 8 and 9 will not be returning to school this year. We will, of course, maintain our online delivery of lessons for pupils following their normal school timetable and also continue to issue enrichment activities for them to make use of outside of school.

Please be aware that we have only been asked to put in place plans for reopening in some capacity for Year 10 and that this does not mean it will definitely happen, there should be a more definitive announcement from government on May 28th.

The government have made it clear that the gradual reopening of schools will only take place providing that their 5 key tests justify the changes at the time. Please be advised this our proposals are subject to change based on the latest government guidance and parents and carers will be updated prior to any changes being made.

The earliest date in Warrington that some groups of children can attend school will be from 8th June. If this goes ahead pupils from all of the identified year groups will return gradually over a period of weeks.

Parents will need to decide whether to follow government advice or not to allow your child to return to school, however it should be taken in to account that children who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, due to pre-existing medical conditions, or children who live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable, are not expected to return to school for the time being. Parents who decide not to send their child back to school until September will not receive any penalty or fine.

It is likely that pupils in Year 10 will be phased in gradually and initially may be asked to come in to school for some health and safety induction and familiarisation with new routines. There may be some initial sessions with pupils on a 1 to 1 basis or in small groups and we will then work towards formal teaching of small groups in line with government guidance.

We will put measures in place to encourage children to remember to keep their distance from each other. Children will also not be able to share resources or equipment, nor will they be able to play games or sports that involve sharing any equipment or contact.

There will be changes to the start and end of the school day to stagger the timing to avoid parents congregating and to enable the two metre social distancing. Times will be confirmed with parents when they are finalised.



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THE CHALLENGE ACADEMY TRUST C/O PRIESTLEY COLLEGE, LOUSHERS LN, WARRINGTON WA4 6RD. COMPANY NUMBER 10689247

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Principal: Mr J Carlin BA(Hons) NPQH



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In order to continue to provide a safe learning environment for our children we will be limiting the numbers of children attending school at any one time, whilst it remains safe to do so. It is thought that by returning children gradually, we can initially reduce the number of children in classrooms compared to normal and it will allow us to put protective measures in place to reduce risks.

The government recognises that, unlike adults, younger children will find it more difficult to remain two metres apart from each other and staff, therefore additional measures have been put in place to try to minimise the risks of transmission, including:

- frequent hand cleaning and good respiratory hygiene practices
- regular cleaning of all areas in school
- minimising contact and mixing, with children being put into small groups

We are also conducting health and safety checks in all of our schools which are in keeping with joint union guidance.

While we continue to put in place a range of control measures to minimise risks, this will not mean that risks can be removed altogether and the decision about your own child's attendance will be up to you. Online work will still be provided for those students who do not attend.

We will issue further guidance and information in the coming days and weeks after we receive more detailed guidance from the government.

I'd like to wish you all the very best and hope that you and your families remain in good health.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin
Principal.



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