

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2020.



# Penketh High School

Dear Parents and Carers,

From today we are welcoming back Year 10 pupils to school as part of the wider reopening of school and in line with government guidance.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming Year 10 back but safety, of course, remains our key priority as we want to ensure that we do all we can to mitigate any risk to our young people and our staff. We are confident that we can begin the process of wider reopening of school at this time, having sought clear advice and guidance from not only the local authority but also Public Health England.

During the latter part of last week we released information relating to the return of pupils in Year 10 to their parents and we've worked hard at developing clear plans and procedures to ensure the safety of all on site. Similarly we've been able to arrange a bespoke school bus service for those who are reliant on this to attend school. Finally, we conducted a live broadcast online on Friday which enabled parents and pupils to ask questions regarding any queries they have about their return.

The return of a year group, albeit in groups of 25% of the cohort as directed by the government guidance, represents the start of a transition to a return to school for all of our pupils. We look forward to a time when all pupils can return and we can collectively strive for their continued development.

It's important to note that school does remain open to vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers despite the return of Year 10.

I'm pleased that throughout the period of closure we've been able to conduct interactive lessons through Teams and these have followed the normal school timetable each day. Staff have set work that follows a planned curriculum and been available to interact with pupils to address any queries or misconceptions about the work set. We've been able to do this from the first day of closure as we were able to run training sessions with staff and pupils in the week prior to closure as the decision from government to close schools became inevitable. I am, however, grateful to staff who have continued to proactively develop their practice and it's great to see the interactive video resources that staff have produced to support lessons. It's also been great to see their use of remote assignments in order to judge pupil understanding and provide them with feedback. This has shown such adaptability, to be able to deliver a remote learning offer in extremely difficult and unfamiliar circumstances and I'd like to thank the staff for their dedication, ensuring that pupils could continue to follow their timetable despite the closure of school.

Wider opening of school means that there will be some impact to our remote offer for all year groups with a number of staff being present on site to deliver sessions to Year 10. Staff will continue to set work through Teams and can continue to issue pre-recorded video and audio material where it supports the lesson, but for some lessons they will not be available to interact with pupils in real-time. Pupils can still pose questions and queries on their class Team wall but it's likely that, in some cases, they won't get an instant response where staff are in school teaching lessons. They will, of course, respond when available to do so.

I'd like to thank you for your ongoing support and hope that you and your families remain in good health.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J Carlin  
Principal.

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