

CBT/LD

12 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Students,

I hope you and your families are all well and that students are progressing well with their home learning programme. If there is anything we can do to support you further at this time please do not hesitate to let us know.

As you will be aware following the Prime Minister's speech on Sunday, the government has decided that, with effect from 1 June 2020 and assuming its scientific advice remains the same, some children should be allowed to return to school for a small amount of time each week. This will start with children in years Reception, 1 and 6 starting school in a phased, planned way. Following this, if scientific advice allows, students in years 10 and 12 will move towards some part time attendance at school before the end of July.

On Monday, the government released guidance to schools regarding how this should be managed. The guidance is available here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings/coronavirus-covid-19-implementing-protective-measures-in-education-and-childcare-settings>.

The guidance states that secondary schools should plan to provide some face to face support to supplement the home learning of year 10 and 12 students who are due to take exams next year, alongside the provision currently offered to key workers' children through the local education hub – in our case at Jericho Primary School. After 1 June, and once primary schools partially reopen, the hub will close and any key workers' children who need provision should contact us to let us know.

We are now planning how we can provide some face to face education for students in year 10 (which would include year 9 students in year 10) and 12 in a way that is as safe as possible for all students and all staff. We do not have a start date for any students coming back to the UTC as yet, this will be decided by government and by when we can put safety measures in to place, but I wanted to reassure you that detailed plans are being made. We will carry out thorough risk assessments to ensure social distancing can be maintained and that children remain in the same small groups all the time they are at school. We will also ensure we have sufficient hand sanitiser for everyone. We are also planning how transport and catering will work but, at this time, we do not know if these facilities would be able to run in a safe, socially distant, way.

The guidance to schools states very clearly that personal protective equipment (PPE) is not necessary for staff or students in schools. I assume the reasons for this are statistics showing that very few children/young people get seriously ill from the virus. However, other government guidance recommends that adults should wear face coverings when in indoor environments with people not from their household. In addition, children can be asymptomatic carriers of the virus. Therefore, in order to protect our staff and students, we will ensure all staff have PPE in the form of face masks and visors before we allow students in to the UTC. This for the protection of both students and staff. Face masks and visors mainly work by stopping particles travelling very far from an infected person – and have limited barrier effect to inborne particles.

Following the government guidance I cannot insist that students wear face masks, but we are trying to source more masks and once we return if you wish your child to wear one please do provide one for them. Homemade cloth face masks are thought to be partially effective. Guidance on face coverings is in the link above and here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering/how-to-wear-and-make-a-cloth-face-covering#making-your-own-face-covering>

Any students or staff who are extremely clinically vulnerable, clinically vulnerable or live with someone in one of these categories, will not be expected to come to school at this time. The categories are explained here –

Extremely clinically vulnerable –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19/covid-19-guidance-on-protecting-people-most-likely-to-get-unwell-from-coronavirus-shielding-young-peoples-version>

Clinically vulnerable –

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing/staying-alert-and-safe-social-distancing#clinically-vulnerable-people>

Staff with children not yet back at school who have childcare responsibilities will also not be expected to come to school.

I will write to you again once we know further details of how the UTC will partially open, and for which groups of students. Whatever this part time programme looks like, please be assured that the home learning programme will continue until the end of term.

Thank you for supporting your children with their learning at this time and for your continued support for the UTC. I know that by working together we will ensure our students are disadvantaged as little as possible by the current situation.

Stay safe.

Yours faithfully



Cherry Tingle
Principal