



Spalding High School

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Headmistress Mrs M Anderson B.Ed

18th May 2020

Dear parents, carers and students,

I very much hope that this letter finds you and your families well.

In the week since I last wrote, there has been a plethora of government guidance issued to schools about the phased reopening. We are working through these to ensure that the plans and procedures we have in place will provide the safest environment we can for both students and staff. The risk assessments and new procedures we are working on will be shared with parents and students over the coming weeks. We will also be providing a Frequently Asked Questions document for students so that they have a clearer picture of what school and lessons will look like. The plans will take time to collate and will be available to you as soon as they have been agreed.

Although a return date for Y10 and Y12 in secondary schools has not yet been confirmed we are working on the following structure:

- The aims of the face-to-face sessions will be to check understanding, support home learning and prepare students for the next phase of home learning.
- Y10 and Y12 will be split into half-year groups.
- Half-year groups will not be in school every day – a rota will be established.
- Y10 will have core lesson days and option lesson days with a subject specialist.
- Y12 would follow their A Level subjects only.
- The face-to-face session might not be your regular teacher, if that teacher is not able to work from school.
- There will be longer academic tutorial sessions across the day, not five or six lessons as normal.

Clearly, it is still early days and we will share greater detail with you as the plans evolve.

School Transport. This is urgent and requires a parental response from Y10 and Y12 parents using Local Authority buses.

In a school where two thirds of the students arrive by Local Authority school bus, transport is key to a phased return. SHS will be open at some point in Term 6 for Y10 and Y12, when we have received notification that secondary schools can open. We remain open for the children of key workers.

The advice from government and the Local Authority is that parents transport their children to school privately for the time being. However, in order to restart the school transport system the Local Authority need to know if parents of Y10 and Y12 would at some point in T6 need to access their buses. In order to assist their planning, they have contacted schools and informed us of the following:

“The Council is working with schools and transport providers to make sure children and young people that are entitled to transport in these year groups can get to school when they need to and that social distancing can be supported. This may mean some changes to the types of vehicle and the providers that are used and we ask for your understanding with this.

It remains very important that transport is only used for those children and young people that really need it. **We ask that you transport your child to school unless you have no other option, even if your child is normally entitled to transport.** This will also help further support social distancing.

Mainstream schools and colleges will continue to be open for vulnerable children and those of key workers in any year group. You **do not need** to contact the Council again about transport if your child is currently attending school and will continue to do so.

For all other children returning to school or college following the Prime Minister's advice, you **must** please contact the Council **by Friday 22nd May 2020** if:

- your child is in the relevant year groups, (YR, Y1, Y6, Y10,Y12) your child's school is reopening and you plan for them to return to school from 1st June 2020 if agreed; **and**
- they are normally entitled to transport; **and**
- you cannot transport them.

We ask that you contact us by emailing TSG@lincolnshire.gov.uk by Friday 22nd May 2020. Those without access to email should call 01522 782020. This will help the Council make appropriate transport arrangements from the earliest date possible. If you do not contact the Council by this date, it may mean transport arrangements will not be in place for your child by 1st June 2020.”

I recognise that the request from the Local Authority requires parents to respond even if they are unsure as to whether they will let their children in Y10 and Y12 attend school when we are allowed to re-open. As mentioned earlier in this letter and in all of my letters, our prime aim is the safety of our students and staff and we are putting plans, procedures and protocols in place to minimise the risk of infection and transmission of the virus. These plans will be shared with parents and students and will hopefully reassure you. Only parents will be able to make the decision as to whether their child will attend, but my advice would be that even if parents were in two minds at the moment, to contact transport and let them know you **may** need access to their buses.

Key worker supervision Monday 1st June – Friday 12th June:

Key worker information and the Local Authority form remain on the homepage of the school website (under useful links, Covid-19). If key worker parents wish to send their child to school during the fortnight of Monday 1st June – Friday 12th June, please email the School enquiries email no later than **Thursday 21st May**. Parents need to register that they would like their child to attend during this fortnight but note they can (as per the arrangements explained below) withdraw attendance on particular days as we appreciate that this makes it slightly easier for parents working shift patterns. If parents wish to withdraw their child from attending during this fortnight, please do the following:

- Inform us if possible, by 3pm the day before withdrawal and no later than 9am on the day, the child does not attend.
- If the child is unwell and unable to attend, please notify us before 9am as per the normal absence procedures.

Student work:

My letter of 4th May contained information regarding work for each year group. This letter is still available in the Covid 19 file on the school website. Phase Three work continues to Friday 22nd May and we will not be setting work for what would have been the Whit Half Term.

We recognise that school closure is extending far longer than any of us at first probably thought and for some year groups it seems highly probable that we will not see students again until at least September. I know it may be naive but I am very hopeful that scientists might find a vaccine sooner rather than later, but I am also a pragmatist and we are planning for what learning and teaching will look like into September if schools are not fully open and children are still partially (or completely) working from home. We also recognise that this means the nature of the work we are setting and how we are marking work and assessing progress will also have to evolve and we will begin to trial some of these new systems in Term 6.

We will be sending home a survey to assess home ICT provision and internet access in Term 6 to help us shape effective longer-term plans.

School Closure Challenge 3:

Pets: Thank you to everyone who sent in an entry. The PowerPoint is on the school website so do have a look, as the pictures are amazing. The Spalding Guardian have also picked up the story and will be running with it and publishing some of the photographs too. Mrs Ray will announce the winners and the house points table this week.

School Closure Challenge 4:

Guess Who? The quiz to identify staff from a cropped facial feature has been emailed out on the school email system. Please ensure your entry has been sent into the enquiry email address by Friday this week.

School Closure Challenge 5:

It is going to be a physical challenge and so get into training now! The Challenge is attached to this letter and has been emailed to all students on the school system along with a very helpful little video from Mr Farrell.

Take very good care of yourselves and best wishes,

Yours sincerely

M K Anderson Headmistress