

Letter to parents/ carers - 18 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you are all well and managing in the challenging circumstances. Our schools continue to be upbeat places to be, despite the difficulties, although we very much miss working directly with the majority of our children and young people.

Half Term Holiday: 25th- 29th May

All of our schools will be closing completely for the half term holiday. This will enable families and staff to take a break. Since the start of the crisis we have opened every day, including school holidays and bank holidays. We are hoping that the situation is sufficiently stable for us to be able to operate on our normal term dates from now on – but we will, of course, be monitoring the situation closely and responding to local need. This means that we will not be opening for key worker and vulnerable children/ students for those five days. The schools do not intend to set additional schoolwork for the holiday week and enquiry emails will be answered again from 1 June. We know from your feedback that most children and young people have plenty to do, should they choose to continue with school work during the holiday.

Schools will re-open for the children of key workers and those in vulnerable groups as normal from **Monday 1 June**.

Next Half Term – Proposed phased re-opening of schools

You will no doubt be aware of the government's aspiration to open schools to some primary year groups from the week commencing 1 June. It has also been suggested that schools may be able to facilitate some face-to-face contact with Year 10 and Year 12 students, during June/ July. However, in order for these steps to be actioned certain public health milestones have to be met. We also have to be confident from our side that what is offered is as safe as possible and is manageable. Therefore, we are proposing:

Primary Years

We are working towards a phased return for the year groups suggested by the government (Reception, Year One and Year Six). The very earliest we would open to more children is Wednesday 3 June and we are likely to start with Reception children. We will be in touch on 1 June to advise whether the public health guidance suggests that a further opening of schools is safe and exactly how we propose to move forward with that. You will have seen in the media that class sizes would be smaller and other measures would be in place to help us to operate as safely as we can. We will write to parents nearer the time with a detailed checklist of the measures we will have in place. I know that some schools have already sent detailed information, but current government guidance is in draft form and we would prefer to give you the latest, most accurate information, when available.

In the meantime, please ensure that you have responded to the parent survey for Reception, Year One and Year Six, about whether you intend to send your child to school. As we understand it, this is entirely a parental decision. Attendance at school will not enforced during this period.

Letter to parents/ carers - 18 May 2020

Year 10 and Year 12

As Heads of Schools have already shared, there is a suggestion that schools may be able to facilitate some face-to-face contact for students who have exams next school year. Again, this is subject to certain public health conditions having been met. We will be in touch as quickly as we can during the week commencing 1 June about whether this is possible and how this would be organised.

Hampton Gardens School site re-opens 1 June

As Mr Greenwood has already communicated directly to HG parents, the HG key worker and vulnerable groups of students will return to their own site from immediately after half term. This gives both schools the space to accommodate additional learners, particularly if we are able to welcome back some Year 10 and Year 12 students at some point.

A huge thank you to Mr Gilligan and the Hampton College team for welcoming the Hampton Gardens students and their staff since Easter. It has worked really well and has further enhanced the working relationships between the sister schools.

Finally,

We hope that you are able to have an enjoyable half term. At least if the weather is kind, we will have the opportunity to be outside a bit more in family groups. Stay safe and we look forward to seeing more of you when the circumstances allow.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Price'.

Helen Price
Executive Headteacher