



Trinity

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08/06/2020

Year 10 Phased Return to School

Dear Year 10 Trinity Family

Firstly, I would like to offer my gratitude for your support during this period of school closure. It has been a challenging time for us all, and I hope you have felt supported by us as we have tried to ensure continuity of learning at home.

The guidance published by the government regarding the re-opening of schools states:

“Secondary schools should plan on the basis that from the week commencing 15 June, they can invite year 10 and 12 back into school for some face-to-face support with their teachers, subject to the government’s 5 tests being met. We are asking secondary schools to offer this face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 pupils, which should remain the predominant mode of education during this term for pupils in these year groups”.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools>

We have used this guidance to underpin our detailed curriculum planning and risk assessments, and are planning to gradually re-open for Year 10 students in a limited capacity from **Monday 22nd June 2020**.

Online learning will continue to be the predominant mode of learning for most of our students, including those in Year 10. I am committed however to ensuring that all of our students in Year 10 have the opportunity to return to school in some capacity over the remainder of this half term in order to enjoy the social and academic benefits of being back in school.

At all stages in our planning we have referred closely to the Department for Education’s guidance to inform our very detailed risk assessment. A representative of the NEU Teacher’s union, the local authority and the diocese have also scrutinised our risk assessment and I am pleased to report that we are now ready to move forwards with our plan.

Staff Training and Safety

In order to prepare staff for the phased re-opening of the school we have been conducting training sessions that they attended last week. The training sessions focused on Health and Safety in light of Covid-19, an updated Behaviour Management policy to reflect the changes needed due to Covid 19 and the amended Curriculum. This week, staff are using the knowledge that they have gained from their training to prepare for the safe return of Year 10 students.

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What is 'face to face' support?

You will know that the Government has said that it is vitally important that exam groups such as Year 10 have some "face-to-face" contact at school before the summer holidays. Face to face support is designed to:

- a) support online learning;
- b) provide students with some targeted feedback to help them to progress their learning; and,
- c) provide the social experience of being back in school, thus alleviating any anxieties and supporting with mental health and well-being.

We are planning to offer Year 10 face to face time in school having English, mathematics and science lessons on a limited timetable.

I cannot emphasise enough how important your child's education and health and safety is to us. We want to do all we can safely to make sure that the disadvantages they have suffered in the last few months from not being in school are addressed as quickly as possible.

Staff in particular are really looking forward to working with pupils face to face again as they have also missed this part of teaching during their time away from the school premises.

Why are only Year 10 returning to Trinity school?

Students in Year 10 have been selected because they will be sitting public examinations next year and there is a commitment to ensure that they don't fall behind in their studies. This is something that we fully support and our intention is to ensure that students are able to start Year 11 from a position of strength and certainty, and that they are able to use the summer holidays to consolidate their knowledge and prepare for their next steps.

Registering interest in returning

We will send you a text message this week asking you to let us know whether or not you intend to send your child to school. This is important for our planning and will help us to provide the safest possible learning environment for our staff and students. Whilst I would encourage you all to send your children in to school for the face to face support, I appreciate that this is a personal decision and will be a difficult decision for many of you. I would like to reassure you that parents will not be penalised if they do not send their children into school for the remainder of this term.

How often will my child be in school?

We are currently in the process of timetabling the provision we are able to offer. Pupils who take up the offer of an in school place will receive two days of lessons per week in socially distanced groups of no more than 15 pupils each. Pupils will receive three consecutive lessons each day with no break or lunch provided, thereby removing social mixing time. Only English, maths and science will be taught during this time. We have places for all those who wish to take up the offer. More details about dates and times will be made available to those who opt into this provision.

Mental Wellbeing

We are very much aware that during the pandemic, members of our Trinity family may have found it difficult and stressful. All of us are in this together and we want to make sure we are here to support you. As you know, we take your mental health and wellbeing very seriously and you can talk to us. If you are feeling like you need support now, please email any teacher that you feel comfortable to speak to and we will support you.

Around the school there are posters about our mental health first aiders. When you return, if you wish to speak to one of them then just let any member of staff know and they will arrange this for you. Ms Lewis (our school counsellor) and Mrs Simpson (attendance, welfare and safeguarding officer) will also be available to meet with you. There are also lots of links and resources regarding mental health and wellbeing on our school website (look under the character and wellbeing tab) and on Weduc.

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What next?

Please respond to the text that you will receive shortly to inform us your decision regarding sending your child to school. I will write to you again as soon as I have further news and look forward to reuniting the Trinity family in school as soon as it is safe to do so.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Clarke', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Ms Samantha Clarke
Year 10 Progress Leader
Head of Drama