

19th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Phased Return to School for Years 10 and 12

Following our letter dated 11th May, we want to share some more information regarding the government's ambition for students facing exams next year to get some face-to-face time with their teachers before the end of term. Further information on the Government's guidance for parents and carers can be found [here](#).

The aim for a phased return is conditional on the continued reduction of the infection rate of Coronavirus. As always, the safety of our staff and students remains our top priority and, although we want to see a return to normal working practices as soon as possible, we fully appreciate the risks involved. We are therefore working alongside other local schools, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council and the Department for Education to carry out detailed and stringent risk assessments. More information from SMBC is available on our website by clicking [here](#).

The Government guidance asks us to consider organising students into smaller class sizes alongside the implementation of additional protective measures, including increasing cleaning schedules. As part of our planning process, we will need to consider entry and exit points to the site, break and lunchtime arrangements, fire evacuation procedures and a range of other matters to ensure social distancing and a safe return to onsite learning.

We also understand that some students will not be able to return to the Academy for a number of reasons, including self-isolating and shielding to protect themselves or vulnerable family members. With this in mind, we would appreciate it if you could complete a short survey indicating your thoughts about a phased return to school. It is our understanding that fixed penalties for persistent absence will not be issued, and the process for recording and reporting student attendance will change for this period to reflect that.

The survey is available online by clicking [here](#).

Phased Return to School

Phase One - Week Commencing 1st June 2020 – The Academy will in the main only be open only to staff to allow training on an agreed risk assessments, revised timetabling and continued teaching and learning expectations. Students would continue to remain at home and learn online. Small School provision will continue for vulnerable students and the children of key workers for those already booked in.

Phase Two - Week Commencing 8th June 2020 – The Academy will begin a comprehensively planned and risk assessed phased return for Year 10 and 12 students. Please note the following arrangements:

- Students will not be required to attend all day, every day and will not follow a full timetable. We will inform students of what sessions they are expected to attend and when as teaching groups will need to be much smaller than usual to allow for social distancing.
- We envisage that the sessions will run 9:30am to 1:00pm to avoid the peak travelling times, although this will be confirmed in due course.

WMG Academy for Young Engineers, Chelmsley Road, Chelmsley Wood, B37 5FD

- There will be no canteen facilities, so students will be expected to bring a packed lunch with them. Students in receipt of Free School Meals will continue to receive supermarket vouchers.
- Students will need to follow strict guidelines for social distancing and staying safe, including remaining in the same groups and in the same learning bases where staff will come to them.

Please note that we will be reviewing our plans every fortnight and will ensure that we update you regularly. To be clear, these phased return arrangements are being put in place to allow some face-to-face time with teachers and will therefore complement the online learning that students will continue to undertake on days when they are working from home.

Small School

Our small school provision for vulnerable students and the children of key workers will be closed over half term. The Academy will be closed from Monday 24th May until Friday 29th May and students will not be expected to complete online learning during this time. Staff will not be available to answer questions, but will follow up on any enquiries from Monday 1st June.

Ongoing Communication

Please be reminded that if you need to contact the Academy throughout this period of closure, we recommend doing so by email to solihull.info@wmgacademy.org.uk. Telephone messages will still be routinely monitored, however you will receive a response far sooner via email communications. Please remember that any parental communications are also available on our website by clicking [here](#).

Once again, we would like to thank you for your patience, understanding and co-operation at this challenging time. We will communicate with you as soon as possible with more information as it becomes available.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs K Tague
Executive Principal



Mr S Tait
Associate Principal