

22nd May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Proposed Phased Return to School for Years 10 and 12 to offer some face-to-face sessions to complement online learning - Update

Following our letter dated 19th May 2020, we wanted to update you further regarding the situation surrounding the proposed phased return of schools and the provision of some face-to-face teaching for Years 10 and 12 before the summer holiday.

Firstly, we would like to thank all of the parents who have completed the parental survey we circulated earlier this week. The results of this were broadly positive and supportive of our proposal to begin to offer some 'face to face' sessions from Monday 8th June. Understandably, the survey highlighted a number of concerns and questions from parents and we do fully understand the anxieties raised and recognise the need for further information and clarity in order for you to make informed decisions about allowing your child to return to the Academy.

Like all schools nationally, we are still awaiting further guidance from the DfE about how to facilitate a phased return to school. Guidance around the return of Primary Schools has been forthcoming but the much awaited and promised guidance for Secondary schools has not. We do however, expect some further communication and guidance over the coming week; this will allow us to plan more effectively for a return and more clearly signpost what this might look like.

In light of the position we find ourselves in just before the half term break, we have reviewed our initial proposals and do not now foresee a return to the Academy for students in Years 10 and 12 to receive some face-to-face teaching until Monday 15th June, at the earliest. As you can appreciate, any proposals we set out are always conditional on a number of criteria set out by central Government, including whether the R (rate of reinfection) has continued to fall and whether or not the NHS is able to cope with additional demand. More specifically, it is important that our proposals take full account of the specific guidance document from the Department of Education regarding the re-opening of secondary schools. In summary, it would not be responsible for us as an Academy Trust to proceed with firm dates on a proposed return having not incorporated that into our detailed risk assessments.

We will of course communicate with you as soon as we have received further guidance from both the DfE and the local authority and have more information about how this will affect a proposed return to the Academy. We expect to be in a position to do this during the week commencing Monday 1st June. We appreciate how frustrating this is for parents and students who just want some certainty moving forwards with their planning and decisions and we had been led to believe we would be able to offer this before half term and, regrettably, this is no longer the case.

Looking forward, you will be aware that next week is half term, and so 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. Teachers will therefore not be online to interact with students but will of course follow up on any enquiries from Monday 1st June. Our small school provision for vulnerable students and the children of key workers will be closed over half term.

From Monday 1st June, students will be expected to continue with their online and remote learning and small school provision will be available to those students who have already booked a place. Please

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be reminded that small school is exclusively for vulnerable students and the children of key workers. If you have not yet taken advantage of this provision but are now in a position where you need to, please email solihull.info@wmgacademy.org.uk and we will try to accommodate you.

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. Safeguarding concerns should include the phrase 'CONFIDENTIAL – SAFEGUARDING' in the email subject line. 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.

Yours faithfully,



Mrs K Tague
Executive Principal



Mr S Tait
Associate Principal