

Executive Headteacher: Mrs J Woodhouse BSc(Hons)
Head of School: Mrs S Crawley BSc (Hons)

10 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you will know, we have been working on our plans to provide Year 10 students with additional on-site support to extend their remote learning. I am aware that there has been significant media attention surrounding the issue of increasing numbers of students returning to school and that there continues to be a national debate about whether it is safe for students (and staff) to do so.

Our plans to bring students back into school from the week beginning Monday 22 June, have been very carefully thought through. We have enhanced cleaning routines, hand hygiene measures and social distancing arrangements in place. We take our responsibility to our families and staff very seriously and we have taken time to work through a range of changes to our provision.

At this stage, given low reported cases locally and our carefully adapted approaches, we are confident that we can offer a school place to every child in Year 10. This will be done on a rota basis, from 9.30am - 12.00pm, with each student being able to attend one morning per week. This means that a maximum of 16 students will be on site at any one time (in line with Government guidelines) and they will be divided into class groups of around 6-8 students.

Each class will receive subject specific support from our teachers who will provide tutorials in Maths, English and Science as well as additional support around learning strategies and wellbeing. Students may find they have a different teacher to the one they were working with before lockdown: this is unavoidable at this time and we are confident that students will quickly adapt to the new routines.

The safety of children and staff relies on our partnership approach with parents. Of key importance is that only those who are free from symptoms of Covid 19 infection, should attend school. Any child (or member of staff) who is unwell with a raised temperature, new persistent cough or loss of smell or taste must not come into school. Anyone who develops these symptoms whilst on site will be isolated and parents will be phoned to arrange immediate collection from school.

We are not allowing visitors to the school at this time, and all meetings (including those with parents) will be done remotely (via phone or video conferencing) if at all possible. In these circumstances, we will need parents to follow the Public Health England rules on self-isolation (for a minimum period of at least 7 days for the child) and to ensure that the child is tested for Covid 19. The school must be informed of the outcome of this test so that we can take further action as appropriate, supported by PHE and our Trust. The school will follow the guidelines of PHE at all times and will keep our families informed if we have any confirmed cases of Covid 19.

A range of additional measures accompany this foundation, to keep the school community safe:

-there will be seating plans in the classroom which all students must adhere to'

- students and adults will remain 2m apart whilst on school site, on the way to school and on the way home. Where students travel on school transport provided by the school or Cornwall Council, then social distancing arrangements will be in place and a face mask must be worn (please see the attached policy from Cornwall Council for more details).
- students will need to bring their own supply of water and refreshments, school meal vouchers will continue for the families of children eligible for Free School Meals and 'breaks' will be taken in the short intervals between lessons as and when required. There will be no formal mid-morning break.
- a one-in, one-out system will operate in the school toilets and students must wash their hands thoroughly after using the facilities. Toilets will be cleaned mid-morning and each class group will have an allocated toilet for their use, to reduce 'footfall'.
- borrowing and loaning equipment will be kept to a minimum and students are asked to bring their own pen, pencil, calculator and other basic equipment to school wherever possible. Where equipment is borrowed, it will be wiped down after use.
- classrooms have been cleaned down to remove items from the work surfaces and tables so that they can be thoroughly cleaned after use, before any other group uses the room.

Further details about these measures, and other important information is attached and we ask parents to read this, with their child, before they return to school and to ensure students understand the importance of adhering to these arrangements at all time.

Whilst students (and staff) are not required to wear face masks in school, we are happy for students to do so if they would like to. The requirement for students to wear school uniform is currently lifted: clothing suitable for a 'non-uniform' day is appropriate and, as usual, students should not to wear make-up, nail varnish or 'gel' nails, facial piercings, dangly earrings, mini-skirts, beachwear, flipflops or high heels. We hope to avoid needing to ask students to return home to correct issues with their clothing or appearance. In addition, classrooms are likely to be colder than usual as windows and doors will be open to increase ventilation: please ensure students have a jumper or hoody so they remain comfortable in their tutorials.

Prior to children returning to school, we ask parents to read the attached information and home-school partnership agreement carefully, and to complete the reply slip to confirm if your child will be joining our on-site support programme. Please ensure we receive your response as soon as possible, and by 5.00pm pm Tuesday 16 June at the latest.

The school has planned for this return on the basis of 'a place for every child' and at the moment, we expect this on-site support programme to remain in place for the remainder of the Summer term, until Friday 17 July. On receipt of confirmation that your child is returning to us, the school will contact you to let you know which day your child will attend, and their allocated classroom.

There are just 4 precious mornings available for your child to attend school to benefit from time with their teachers before the end of term. Our view, as a school committed to educating children and helping them to achieve their full potential, is that the time on-site will add valuable additional support to what we can provide remotely. It may be some considerable time before schools return to 'normal' and, whilst we continue to develop our remote provision, it is our opinion that face- to- face time with teachers cannot ever be replaced by a computer screen. The future direction of GCSE exams is uncertain and we hope that this time in school will support our Year 10 students to end the school year positively and with increased confidence.

I know these are challenging times for families and that the decision about whether or not to support your child to come into school is a difficult one. We understand that families will need to make this decision in the context of their own circumstances and we will support whatever decision parents make. Either way, our remote learning provision will continue for the foreseeable future and we are continuing to invest in training teachers to make full use of the available technology and to adapt their teaching to be effective through a variety of methods.

On behalf of the staff team at Cape Cornwall School, I would like to thank parents for their continued support and partnership. It has been heartening to receive many messages from parents thanking staff for the individual care and support they have provided for students and parent feedback has been highly valued over recent weeks. As ever, if parents have any questions or need further advice or information, please do not hesitate to contact a member of our staff team.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Crawley', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Mrs S Crawley
Head of School

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