



27 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Year 10 Education: Term 6

As you will no doubt be aware, it is the government's intention for Year 10 students to receive some form of face-to-face support to compliment the online learning in place since Friday March 20th. It has been requested that this commence from Monday June 15th. The government plans are yet to be fully confirmed and appear to be dependent on them meeting their '5 tests'. As such, the information detailed in this letter is dependent on the government confirming their intention to increase the number of children attending school after May half-term.

At Whitstone School, we have been working extremely hard to create a plan for next half-term for our Year 10 students which will provide them with education which is safe, meets the needs of all learners and allows our students to gain some opportunity to access learning in school before the summer break. We feel that this is important to help our students begin the potentially anxious process of returning to school and preparing for Year 11.

I fully appreciate that your child and family as a whole will be anxious about them returning to school. As a parent myself, I understand the concerns you may have regarding your child's safety and wellbeing. As such, we have produced a plan which has the safety, physical wellbeing and mental health of our students and staff at the very forefront. It is important to note that I will not be opening school to more students than we currently have on site if I am not satisfied that we are safe to do so. I have given this assurance to our staff and Trustees. Our staff are receiving ongoing, extensive training regarding how to ease anxieties around returning to school following the Covid-19 outbreak.

Detailed below is the general plan for next half-term. There will be 5 weeks from Monday June 15th until the end of the academic year and therefore each week is numbered from 1-5. Week 1 commences on Monday 15th June. Please can I ask that you read the timetable below and discuss it with your child. If you or your child has any questions during the half-term break next week or in the two weeks following, please do not hesitate to contact me by emailing whitstoneinfo@educ.somerset.gov.uk. I will regularly check emails and will be able to respond promptly to any questions you may have. On the reverse of this letter, I have outlined some of the many safety measures we have in place ready for the return of our Year 10 students.

	Students
Week 1 (15th June – 19th June)	All students will be provided with online learning. Year 10 students will be invited into school to meet with their tutor in groups of up to 5 students. These meetings will last for around 60 minutes whereby tutors will work through a selection of resources and also spend time talking openly with students and answering any questions they may have. These student sessions will be staggered during the Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week.
Week 2 to Week 5 (Remainder of academic year)	All students will continue to receive online learning. Year 10 students will be in school for a shortened day on a rota basis. This will ensure that there are a maximum of 50 students on site at any one time. These students will also be split into different areas of the school. The Year 10 day will last from 8.45am until 1pm. A timetable for each individual student will be sent out via Epraise next week.

As you will see from the table above, we have decided to stagger the return of our students and provide all students with a small group tutor session during the week commencing the 15th June. This will ease fears and anxieties and allow tutors to hold conversations with students and support them in returning to the school site. The mental wellbeing of our students is being taken very seriously.

Students should arrive promptly for their tutor meetings during Week 1. They should wear school uniform and enter school through the quietest entrance. There will be staff available to support them in entering school. During these meetings, students will be given more information regarding Weeks 2-5. They will also be able to ask any questions they may have.

Your child will receive Epraise messages after half-term informing them of their individual timetable for next half-term for Weeks 2-5. They will also be given the time for their one-hour tutor meeting held during Week 1. If you have any questions regarding this, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Finally, please can I thank you again for your support and understanding over the past two months. It is lovely to read the positive messages of support from many parents and to read the notes and letters that come into school. We are lucky to have such a supportive community.

Yours faithfully



Mr Guy Swallow
Headteacher

Safety Measures and School Site Instructions

- Prior to returning to school, there will be a full deep clean of our school site. Cleaning will take place during the school day and a full clean will take place at the end of every day. Large areas of school will not be open to reduce the chance of infection being spread.
- All staff entering school will need to do so via the Reception where they will have their temperature taken and they will wash their hands.
- Students should enter through one of our three entrances. They will have their temperature taken at the entrance and will be registered.
- Students will then move in a social distancing manner to the Hall during Week 1 and their respective 'Learning Space' during Weeks 2-5. SLT and other staff colleagues will be around the school site to support students.
- In each 'Learning Space' students will find the resources they need for the day. They will use the same space for all Core lessons and will then move to another space for their Option subjects.
- Students will not be provided with lunch, so should bring food and drink with them if they wish. Students receiving Free School Meal vouchers will continue to do so.
- Students will be given breaks during Weeks 2-5 to wash their hands and get some fresh air every 45 minutes. They will be supervised during these times and will need to maintain social distancing measures.
- There will be a one-way system in place around school. Whilst this may seem frustrating at times, it is important that everyone adheres to this.

Fully trained First Aiders will be on site at all times. These staff will have access to full PPE and will be able to assess students who may have illness or symptoms