



2 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

As you will no doubt have heard, the government have announced that Year 10 students should begin expecting some face-to-face support from June 15th. At Whitstone School, we have spent weeks planning for this eventuality and have begun to communicate our plans to parents of Year 10 students.

The government has not yet announced plans for Year 7, 8 and 9 students. It is however, our view that it is looking highly unlikely that students in these three year groups will have any face-to-face teaching or time on our school site before September. Whilst this is sad news for all of us, I felt that it was important to communicate this message to you at this point to enable you to prepare accordingly. Despite this information we will, of course, continue to work hard to support our Key Stage 3 students, remain prompt in returning messages via Epraise and will do everything we can to support all of our students.

This Term

During this final half-term of the academic year, we will be working hard to prepare your child for what we sincerely hope will be a return to school in September. Firstly, we will be calling all Year 7, 8 and 9 students at least once this half-term to discuss their online learning, answer any questions they may have and to help them prepare for September. We will also continue to set online learning for all students. It has been lovely to hear the really positive feedback regarding the work being set. Our teachers will continue to find new ways of delivering the work set which will hopefully ensure that our students remain committed to their work until the end of the academic year.

Our SEN Students

Our SEN students will all receive weekly calls from one of our Learning Support Assistants. These calls will allow you to ask any questions you may have, gain advice regarding student online learning or simply provide your child with an opportunity to keep in touch with a familiar member of staff. You are, of course, welcome to contact us outside of these phone calls through Epraise, emailing the school inbox or by phoning the school.

On-Site Provision

Throughout the Covid-19 pandemic, we have taught keyworker children in school and those who may require a little extra support. This provision still exists so if you are a keyworker and unable to leave your child at home, please send their House Leader an Epraise message or contact us at school. We would be more than happy to help.

Online Learner Prizes

We are very aware that many of our Year 7, 8 and 9 students have worked exceptionally hard since we moved into lockdown. We have awarded prizes for VE Day, baking, craft and poetry competitions and provided a number of students with House Points. Despite this, we are continually looking for more ways to celebrate the progress, hard work and successes of our students and will be celebrating even more over the final weeks of the academic year.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support of school and my staff during this challenging time. The communication we have received has been overwhelmingly positive and we all appreciate your kindness. Please do not hesitate to contact us over the coming weeks and I will be in touch again soon.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Guy Swallow