



22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. It seems almost impossible that we have had a half term away from school. As a parent myself, I fully understand how hard remote learning can be, especially whilst you may be trying to conduct your own working from home or balancing younger children. We understand that every family has different circumstances and that it is not always possible to complete all the work set by teachers. Some days, it is very hard to motivate children and ourselves! I hope that you are managing to enjoy the time together as a family. We are really enjoying seeing some of the different things that students have been learning at home and it is great to see that many students are learning lots of new skills.

### **Year 10 Phased return**

We would like to take the opportunity to write to you outlining our phased re-opening plans following on from the correspondence you will have received from our CEO – Daniel Thrower, dated Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

The letter refers to the DfE expectation placed upon Secondary Schools to offer some ‘face to face’ support for children and young people in year 10 to supplement their remote education. The same DfE guidance also states that this will not be a return to full timetables or pupils back in school or college full time. Instead, it states, “that in line with implementing protective measures and reducing contacts, schools and colleges should limit the attendance of the year 10 in the setting at any one time and to keep students in small groups”.

Of course, we very much look forward to welcoming some of our students back and to being able to support them face-to-face. We have been working on government guidelines and rigorous Trust/Local Authority risk assessments to ensure that when our school reopens we can keep your child and staff safe and as far as is feasibly possible, keep them socially distanced.

For students with specific needs, we will complete a Student Specific Risk Assessment to ensure the student, other students and staff remain safe. These risk assessments will be shared with staff and parents and we will be required to review necessary arrangements to mitigate all risks. This may unfortunately mean for some students that the safest option is for them to remain at home.

We will continue to provide work online for Year 10 until the end of the Summer term and their time in school will supplement this. This will be part-time, as we will need to keep groups separate and spaced, although the Government guidance acknowledges that full social distancing will not be possible and that passing in corridors poses minimal risk, for example. Our teachers will also need to continue setting and assessing online work, as well as some shielding at home, and so teacher time in school for face-to-face work with students will be limited.

Therefore, our implementation plans for phased reopening are outlined below:

Provision will start from **MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2020**. This will provide a six-week window of provision.

Our current working plans will divide the year group into three cohorts: A, B and C. Each cohort will contain approximately 20 children. The children will attend school three consecutive days in a fortnight and will have tuition to support online learning with subject specialists for every subject they study. Each cohort will be divided into four groups of approximately 6 students and taught in classrooms which have been adapted to ensure social distancing.

We envisage the school day to remain the same in terms of start and finish times although lesson times and breaks will be adapted. Usual transport will be provided by Norfolk County Council and social distancing measures are implemented on the bus services.

Students will need to bring a packed lunch each day from home (distribution of FSM vouchers will continue for those eligible) as the school canteen will not be open. Students will be allowed out side for breaks in allocated zones in their class group. Students will not be able to mix with students who are not in their allocated group. Students must adhere to the social distancing measures of 2 metres at all times. Students will be required to wash their hands frequently throughout the day and use the designated toilets for their group only.

Students must bring in their own equipment and will not be able to borrow or share equipment from others. Students will be required to be in school uniform but will not have to wear their blazer as the summer uniform rules will apply. As we continue to formulate our plans we will be able to share more details with you in the future in regards to expectations in school and how we will be ensuring the operation and safety of the school day.

In order for us to implement the next stage of planning, we require further information from you regarding planned uptake of this provision. Therefore, please can I request that all parents/carers complete the online survey by clicking on the link below:

<https://forms.gle/8jXho7LhEhQg5AVn6>

We need this to be completed by **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May**. Once this information has been collated, we will be in a position to confirm our arrangements for your son / daughter ahead of week beginning Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions or concerns. You can email me directly during this time at [hwatts@acle.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:hwatts@acle.norfolk.sch.uk) if you have any general questions or concerns. We very much want to support you and your children as best we can at this difficult time and to continue to educate them as well and as safely as possible.

### **Continued remote learning**

Concerning our students in Year 7, 8 and 9, it now looks very unlikely that we will see any form of school return until September at the earliest. We will continue to monitor and evaluate our current provision for those students and communicate with you once we have relevant information to share with you.

All students will still have access to remote learning resources after May half term including Year 10 students who may not take up the offer of in school provision. I am very proud of the way staff have risen to the challenge of remote learning and we will be extending our provision further after May Half term. Hopefully you have seen that all students have form time provision through google classrooms. We have added weekly form quizzes, PSHE themed information and assemblies and rewards assemblies. Please do encourage your child to submit work through google classrooms so we can feedback and celebrate their achievements. Children can hand in work via google classrooms or press the completed button to show that they have completed the work. Please can students use google classrooms for submission rather than ticking 'completed' on class charts or emailing staff with work. This helps us monitor the work that is being produced by students if it is all submitted via google classrooms.

Staff will be setting assessments as we move forward in to next term. The purpose of the assessments is to help us understand where there are gaps in knowledge and to plan for future provision. We do understand that remote learning is challenging for various reasons, but we also wish to emulate our normal provision as much as possible.

To help students with their learning we will be creating some subject specific weekly online drop ins where students can ask teachers questions related to their learning. We will publish a schedule for these sessions and the online links after May half term.

### **Year 11**

We have been working hard to submit the centre assessed grades to Ofqual which has now been finalised. We are unable to share the centre assessed grades and I must reiterate that our centre assessed grades will not necessarily be the final product of the grade awarded. We know that Ofqual will assess a variety of information in order to produce the overall grade. GCSE results will be published on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> August.

We are continuing to share any updates we receive from colleges via the google forms. Students should be working on the pre reading material set by the colleges. If any student needs any further advice or support with Post 16 provision, please email Mrs Pentney who is happy to help.

We would be very grateful for any donations of uniform or revision resources to school. All uniform donated will be shared with families who need additional support in September. Please could students also return any school text books or resources that have been supplied.

### **Staff updates**

Congratulations to Miss Skarin who has been appointed to Assistant Principal for Personal Development from September. As a result of this change, Mr Sayce will be taking on an enhanced role of Director of Progress across all years. We have also appointed a new music teacher who will be joining us in September and we are interviewing for a PE teacher next week. This will mean we have a full complement of staff from September.

### **Helping the community**

We are working with Acle Parish Council to set up food parcels for families in need. If you would like to donate any items towards this, please leave donations at the Methodist church in Acle or drop off donations in school.

Next week is half term so we will not be setting work for students during this period, I hope that you can all enjoy the sunshine and time together.

Thank you for your understanding, patience and encouragement during this period. I really hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well, but recognise that we are all deeply affected by this ongoing pandemic.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Watts

Principal

### Useful links

The Government have produced a guide to help support parents of secondary age children, please see the link below <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/help-secondary-school-children-continue-their-education-during-coronavirus-covid-19>

### **Guidance for parents on the wider opening of schools**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

### **Mental Health and Safeguarding support**

Norfolk County Council have offered a new service to help families during this time. Please see the details below.

- Our **Just One Number** phone line is open from 8am to 6pm Monday to Friday and 9am – 1pm on Saturdays for Parents and professionals to phone in with health queries. That's **0300 300 0123**.
- In addition we have the **Chat Health**, free anonymous texting service for 11- 19 year olds to use. It's open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday on **07480 635060**.
- There's also **Parent Line**, a texting service for concerns parents may have, also open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm on **07520 631590**.
- Finally our **Just One Norfolk website** ([www.justonenorfolk.nhs.net](http://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.net)) or google "Just one Norfolk" has loads of helpful information, tips and advice and is available 24/7 for anyone to access.

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