



Bishop Wordsworth's School

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Dear Parents/Guardians

As you will know the Department for Education has indicated its ambition for secondary schools to start to re-open from 15 June 2020 at the earliest. The year groups concerned are Years 10 and 12 to enable those students who are closest to their public examinations to experience some face-to-face support for their remote learning. We are currently looking at how to bring this about whilst ensuring that the rules on social distancing are maintained in school and thus the health and safety of both boys and staff are not put at significant risk. More specific details for Years 10 and 12 will be published shortly when decisions are finalised about dates, times and the way that the arrangements for learning will work. What is certain is that (a) the normal school timetable will not be operating and (b) there will only be a part of each year group in school at any one time.

All of the relevant DfE guidance can be found at:

https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-schools-and-other-educational-settings?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

The focus of attention is on the two year groups for which external exams are closest. At present there are no plans (or even vague ambitions!) for students in Years 7-9 to be physically in school until the start of the new academic year in September. This means that remote learning will continue for your son for the remainder of the summer term. At present this may still be through the use of Insight for posting and submission of work and also for feedback. As you may know many teachers are now moving across to use Microsoft Teams, which offers a more powerful, flexible and interactive learning experience. All academic departments will by now have moved across to using MS Teams for Year 12; the intention is that by getting accustomed to using the platform for relatively small sixth form groups, the teachers can then consider how best to adapt their methods for the large groups in Year 10, in the first instance, and then Years 7-9. This transition should be complete by the end of June, so from then on all boys should experience some live teaching in every subject during each week, and all work should be set and assessed using Teams, with feedback using the same platform. Teachers will use the current timetable for their 'live' lessons so that the danger of clashes between subjects is minimised, but it is likely that there will not be a live session to coincide with every timetabled lesson. What is more likely is that teachers will schedule 'surgery' sessions for smaller groups of students, but the tactics used to deliver learning will vary from department to department. Your son's teachers will make the arrangements clear for him.

As ever, if you have any questions about your son's diet of remote learning (or if there is any feedback you would like to give) then please use your son's form tutor as the first port of call. The tutor should be in contact with your boy on a weekly basis via MS Teams so the channel of communication should naturally be open...

These are extraordinary times for all of us. Here in school we will be doing all that we can to minimise any risk of infection by lowering the density of students and staff on site, strict social distancing, intensive cleaning and insisting on strict personal hygiene. I need to add that we will only open the school for students if my senior staff and I feel that the level of risk is acceptably low and manageable.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S D Smallwood'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S' and a distinct 'D'.

S D Smallwood
Head Master