

19 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope this letter finds you and your family well. As we complete the third week of this final half term of the academic year, I am writing with a few updates.

Face-to-face support to supplement Year 10 and 12 students' home learning

It has been really lovely to welcome students back this week, with others due in next week. In total, by the end of this first phase of return, we will have had 253 year 10s (of 313 in the year group) and 134 year 12s (of 176 in the year group). Sessions to date have gone very well, with staff reporting very good levels of engagement. Students have participated well in the activities and been honest and mature in their reflections. Specific subject issues are being fed back to departments and will be followed up by staff. Thank you to parents and carers for your support of the process. For those students unable to attend, form tutors will be calling home over the coming days to see how things are, if they haven't already been in touch.

Next phase for year 10

Next week, we will be in touch with year 10 parents with details of face-to-face teaching sessions in school, where the focus will be on mathematics and English. From Wednesday 1st July, students will be allocated time slots to attend in the same groups as their initial face-to-face sessions. We will work on the assumption that those students who are accessing these initial sessions will also wish to access the sessions in mathematics and English, unless parents inform us otherwise following receipt of next week's letter. Parents and carers of students who are not coming in for the initial sessions but wish to access the taught sessions will be able to inform us of this via a survey next week.

In addition to the above, we are intending to provide some online 'live' teaching for year 10 students in science, from Thursday 9 July. This follows successful trials with an IT group and the anti-bullying group (thank you to those who took part). We will write to you with more details on this in due course.

Next phase for year 12

To supplement the increasing use of live online teaching with year 12, and in response to requests from staff and students, from Thursday 9 July we will be facilitating one-to-one online meetings between individual students and their teachers. This will allow for a review of the assessments currently being undertaken and of progress more generally. Details of the specific arrangements will follow separately.

Year 9 students

The Government has now given licence for other year groups, where possible, to have access to some face-to-face support to supplement their home learning. Following the initial success of the first phase of in-school provision for students in years 10 and 12, we would now like to offer similar to students in year 9, from Thursday 9 July. I will write to parents separately about this next week.

Children of critical workers and those deemed vulnerable

Well done and thank you to the students who have been accessing this provision each day, who continue to conduct themselves extremely well. Current arrangements will continue for the remainder of the term and we

await guidance from government on expectations regarding the holiday period.

Free school meals

We are continuing to issue a weekly £15 voucher using the national scheme administered by Edrenred for each student eligible for free school meals but not attending school to receive their meal. You may also have heard this week that the government announced that schools will be able to issue a voucher, using the Edrenred scheme, to cover the six-week summer holiday period.

We know that financial circumstances have changed for a number of our families in recent months. If you think you may now be eligible for free school meals, we would strongly encourage you to apply so that you can receive your supermarket vouchers. The school will also receive vital funding, and your child will be entitled to other types of support. You can check your eligibility and apply at www.northumberland.gov.uk/fsm or by phoning 01670 623 592.

Arrangements from September

We await guidance from government on the next phase of wider school reopening beyond this current period. Although it looks unlikely that schools will be fully back to normal by September, I am hopeful that we will be in a position to welcome students back much more frequently and routinely than has been the case thus far. We are certainly planning on this basis and will keep you updated on developments as they arise.

In the meantime, the Government has recently updated its guidance to parents, which you can find [here](#).

New build

Parents and carers may be interested in reading this recently circulated [residents' newsletter](#) which provides an update from Galliford Try on progress with our new school buildings.

Keeping in touch

As ever, we do want to support you and your son or daughter as best we can. Beyond the phone calls home from tutors and others, please feel able to get in touch with us if you have any queries or concerns.

- For general queries, please contact admin@gehs.net or telephone 01434 610300.
- For queries relating to online work and learning, please contact subject teachers or curriculum leaders directly or via admin@gehs.net.
- For SEND queries, please contact Di Cunningham (dcunningham@gehs.net) or Ann-Marie Pick (dcunningham@gehs.net).
- For pastoral matters, please contact your child's tutor or pastoral leader directly or email pastoral@gehs.net.
- For safeguarding concerns, please contact Richard Zabrocki (rzabrocki@gehs.net) or Emerson Brown (ebrown@gehs.net) or use safeguarding@gehs.net.

With best wishes.

Yours faithfully



Graeme Atkins
Executive Headteacher