



11 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Update 11 June 2020 Covid-19

I am writing to give you an update considering the ever-changing advice and guidance from the Department for Education and on our plans for reopening of school to pupils in Years 10 and 12 alongside our continued provision for children of key workers, those with an EHCP and those who may be vulnerable.

Further to my letter of 4 June 2020 I have written to the parents/carers of all pupils in Years 10 and 12 with the timetable arrangements for the face to face sessions. The lengthy planning document will also be re-issued as this gives more detail about the timetabling of Years 10 and 12 – apologies if you feel inundated with information but I would prefer to keep you as up to date with our plans as much as possible, considering the changing guidance. In addition there was two separate but related documents which will be published again today for all our parents/carers so you are aware of the arrangements that we have put in place to ensure we comply with the directive from the DfE – only one quarter of Year 10 and only one quarter of Year 12 in school at any one time. The logistical arrangements mean we can provide face to face sessions for all pupils in Years 10 and 12 for each of their specialist subjects before the end of term. We have in place access arrangements, social distancing measures in relation to the current guidance, hygiene provision and risk assessments. It has been a significant amount of work from many different teams across school and I wish to take this opportunity to thank them for working together and ensuring systems are in place and provision is of a high standard in response to the demands of the DfE guidelines. Also, I wish to thank parents and carers who have responded to the information that has been sent out and explained if they are to return to school for their face to face session and who continue to give their support and encouragement. We look forward to welcoming our pupils back even if it will be in unusual circumstances.

Consideration of examinations in Years 10 and 12

I have had a series of face to face meetings, using Microsoft Teams with Faculty Leaders, both as a group and individually, to agree the format and content of the face to face sessions for all subjects. I am very mindful that there is likely to be growing concern about specialist input to curriculum content to help pupils be ready for examinations next summer. The discussions I have had focus on the need to not add pressure to the workload of pupils; in my view, it is not a case of trying to “catch up” and I discourage the use of the term “falling behind”. The situation we are all in is not of any of our making and therefore we must work through it as best we can and consider the impact of not being in school and having the interaction of teaching and learning. I have asked that Faculty Leaders not only consider the content of the face to face sessions but also to plan for what the lesson content will be from September bearing in mind that what was planned in their schemes of learning will not have not been as effectively delivered as it could be. I have also asked that Faculty and Subject Leaders each produce a letter of concern to go to Ofqual to highlight the facts that significant amounts of examination content has not been covered; that schools do not all cover the same content at the same time in the academic year; that subjects with a significant amount of practical work cannot be expected to complete work that would have usually been completed over the four months of Year 10; so any opportunity to “catch up” on four months of education in at least nine subjects for Key Stage 4 (KS4) and three subjects for Key Stage 5 (KS5) when there is all of the

curriculum content for Years 11 and 13 - it is unfair to subject pupils, parents/carers and members of staff to the additional pressure of being expected to cover all of the content in readiness for full examinations in summer 2021. I hope that someone in the DfE with knowledge and experience of working in schools will influence the decision about examinations for the benefit of pupil wellbeing.

Arrangements for pupils of Critical Workers and those with EHCP and vulnerable

Please refer to my letter of 4 June 2020 as the content of that letter has not changed in relation to our arrangements for pupils of critical workers, those with EHCP and vulnerable pupils except that we have put in place some of the changes as numbers of pupils has increased. We now have four "bubbles" with significantly reduced interaction between groups; with the return of Years 10 and 12 pupils there are likely to be further restrictions on the access to some of the sport provision and changes to lesson content based on the availability of members of staff.

Once again, I would like to stress that the advice and guidance on whether children of critical workers should attend school has not changed and the reopening of secondary schools is for pupils in Years 10 and 12 only:

The advice states that:

- People should stay at home as much as possible and if they go out then they should do so within the guidelines and ensure that protective measures including social distancing are in place
- Children of secondary school age can be left unattended by parents at home if it is safe to do so
- Parents/carers will not be penalised if their child does not attend school
- Remote learning remains the predominant mode of education for all pupils

Free School Meals and the National Voucher Scheme

As I wrote in my letter of 4 June 2020, the DfE have changed the guidance on the national voucher scheme; the information I wrote in that letter still applies – even though the voucher scheme is being scaled back, we will continue to provide food parcels. The significant change is that we will not be able to provide food parcels and for families to also receive vouchers. There will be a ParentMail message going out to parents/carers asking whether considering the future stoppage of the vouchers, parents/carers would wish to receive a food parcel.

Other key points

1. Schools received notification on Tuesday that the access to IT devices scheme has been published and is currently with the Local Authority to manage the process of distribution. My understanding that the issuing of the laptops is a loan scheme.

We have continued to provide laptops for our pupils who have found difficulty accessing a device over the last twelve weeks; we have issued thirty four laptops which is last of the stock we hold.

2. The number of Safeguarding cases remains low and as previously, if parents/carers have any safeguarding concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us on enquiries@titussaltschool.co.uk and one of our Designated Safeguarding Leads will be able to deal with the case
3. We continue to recruit for the few vacancies we have had, over the next couple of weeks we will be recruiting for a maternity cover and for Learning Support Assistants so that we will have a full complement of members of staff for the new term.

As I have previously written, if any parent/carer has any concerns and who does not already have a contact with someone in school, please contact the school on:

enquiries@titussaltschool.co.uk

The response to the challenges that are being set continue to be impressive and of such a creative, innovative and high standard. I hope you continue to get involved in the range of challenges and enjoy being creative.

As I receive any further information, I will keep you updated. As is always the case, the situation is changing on a regular basis and making sense of the many documents of advice and guidance is challenging.

Once again, many thanks for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Morrel', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ian Morrel

Headteacher