



June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Apologies for writing to you outside of our weekly newsletter but I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the plans that we are making for term 6 in relation to the phased re-opening of students.

We had planned to start the term by interviewing all our students in Year 10 but following updated guidance from the DfE these meetings have been delayed until 15th and 16th June. These interviews will enable us to plan a personalised curriculum for every student and ensure that they are in the best possible place to start Year 11. The government has made it clear that schools should be prioritising students currently in Year 10 and 12 as they will be sitting public examinations in the summer of 2021. It is students from these year groups who will be the first to be invited in for on-site provision in term 6 and will also be invited for more online lessons across all subject areas. Current guidelines stipulate that only ¼ of these cohorts should be on site at any one time so we will be focussing on students who are struggling to maintain their academic progress through remote learning. The on-site provision for Year 10s will be on Arundel Site from 15th June and we will continue to offer support from the 6th Form Centre for Year 12s. Our Year 12s will have their end of year examinations in term 6 (week beginning 6th July 2020) and whether these are delivered remotely or in school, it is vital that they are fully prepared for these assessments.

The provision for children of key workers or those considered to be vulnerable will continue to be delivered from the Steyne Site and our team in the Hub. From 1st June we have created what the DfE call “bubbles” on Steyne Site to ensure that student interaction is limited to a group of 15. The provision we have made thus far for this group has been extremely successful and I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank our frontline key workers who have kept vital services in Seaford running. I would also like to thank the wonderful staff who have maintained this provision throughout this period. As a community we can feel very proud of the way we have worked together and supported each other through this challenging period.

Since the lockdown there have been no suspected Covid 19 cases within our Steyne Site community and the track and trace approach should offer further reassurance. Moving forward, if there were to be any cases we would be able to isolate the affected “bubble” and ensure that individuals were referred for a test. We would ask that you notify the school if there is a case in your household so that we can also keep Public Health England updated. If your child is displaying any of the symptoms associated with coronavirus, please keep them at home and let us know immediately.

As we look to expand the provision that we make in term 6, the home-school partnership will be more important than ever. There is no point in the school maintaining distinct “bubbles” if our students are mixing with peers from outside their groups on their way to and from school. Parents/carers can support the school by ensuring that their children do not travel in groups

Seaford Head Academy Trust

Mr R Ellis, Headteacher

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to school and we will be flexible and understanding if this results in students being late for their sessions. This is particularly significant for our students who have to take the bus, as we would encourage them to avoid peak times. If you have any concerns regarding the journey to school please contact Mrs James in the Attendance Office.

When our Year 10s come in to school for their interviews on the 15th and 16th June they will notice a number of actions the school has taken to maintain social distancing and reduce the risk of transmission. These include:

1. A one way system on both sites
2. Hand sanitiser on entry
3. An increased number of cleaners around the school
4. Signage and floor markings to support social distancing
5. Doors propped open to support easier access.
6. Windows open for ventilation
7. SLT (Senior Leadership Team) on duty to welcome students onto site
8. A site team member on duty to support cleaning throughout the day

The latest DfE advice can be found at www.gov.uk/coronavirus. The key piece of advice relates to the importance of handwashing and we will be encouraging students to wash their hands at regular points during the day and particularly after arriving and before/after break times. Students will be directed to designated toilet facilities that are well stocked with soap.

For their interviews on the 15th and 16th June we would like our Year 10s to be in full school uniform. They should treat this process as practice for future university/job interviews. For subsequent sessions in term 6 we will allow our Year 10s to wear their own clothes as this will support parents/carers in ensuring that they can wear clean clothes every day. We know that our students will cope with these challenges brilliantly and we will be amending our behaviour policy to ensure that we are following all the DfE guidelines in terms of reducing the risk of transmitting the virus. We will only accommodate students if social distancing can be maintained.

Unfortunately we have been advised to minimise parental visits to the school. This means that all Parent/Carer Information Evenings scheduled for term 6 have been cancelled along with the numerous events that make Seaford Head such a special community. We will be looking at finding “remote” solutions to these challenges to ensure that the home-school partnership, that is so important to support our children, is maintained.

Although the immediate focus will be on key worker children, Year 12s and Year 10s and any vulnerable students, we will be looking to invite other groups into school at some time in term 6. We are well aware that students at key transition points (Year 6 into 7; Year 8 into 9 and Year 11 into 12) might need support and we will be working with students in these groups. The extent to which we make this offer will be determined by advice from the DfE and Public Health England.

Thinking further ahead we are also looking at provision that we can make in the summer holidays to ensure that all our children are in the best possible place to start the academic year in September.

For the vast majority of our students, provision in term 6 will continue to be made “remotely”. Mr Waite will continue to monitor students engagement and will be available to address any concerns regarding access.

We had obviously never planned for this prolonged period of home study and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our students for how they have risen to this challenge. There is a wealth of material available to them and some of them have been really creative in terms of the tasks they have undertaken. The independent study skills they are developing now will prove invaluable to them in terms of forthcoming assessments and their future careers.

Although it will be difficult to organise face to face contact with the majority of our students in term 6, I would like to remind them that we are here for you if you need any support. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely

Mr R Ellis
Headteacher