



# Five Acres High School

Ambition – Confidence – Creativity – Respect - Determination



15 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Over the past week you will have seen much talk about schools re-opening for various different year groups. Your situation will no doubt have dictated your reaction to that news. For some, the news will have filled you with concerns and questions, for others there will have been a sense of relief that this could be the start of a return to some semblance of normality. The difficulty for all will be that there were no concrete details about how this might happen within the specific context of Five Acres High School. I wanted to write today to give as much clarity as I can about what our plans are in response to this.

The latest Government advice (as I write) makes it clear that secondary schools will be expected to offer some 'face to face' time for Year 10 students at the earliest from June 1 2020. The strong suggestion is that Year 7-9 students will be continuing with their remote learning until the summer holidays. Year 11 students are not expected back in school and are mostly, by now, receiving transition work for their new placements for the next academic year. We are still keen to hear from them about what they are up to and the plans that they are making for their futures. We are likely to stop setting work for these students after May half term but would still like to retain contact as we look forward to results being announced in August and as we plan to celebrate their completion of secondary education.

With the Government guidance in mind, during the early part of next week you should receive a further pack that will contain a blue workbook for recording work completed and clear guidance on how Year 7-9 students can continue to access their work. Year 10 students will also receive a blue workbook and they should expect to continue following their current timetable until we communicate with you further. What we can tell you at this stage is that except for vulnerable and Key Worker children, students will not be able to be in school all day, every day. Students and staff will be split in to small 'bubbles' (groups of 15 students max) and will be divided into schools within a school. This will ensure that we can keep any interactions to a minimum in line with Government guidance. We are working hard to ensure we can make the site as safe as possible whilst continuing to educate those who are currently attending daily. Details of our plans for this and ways in which you can communicate to us if your child will be attending will be sent out next week.

Uncertainty seems to be the only thing we are certain of at times but it is reassuring to know that some things don't change. What hasn't changed is that many of our students are working very hard and are conscientiously completing the set lessons, Tutor Time Reading, Hegarty Maths tasks etc... alongside stretching themselves by taking part in the Character Education opportunities we have been making available. It has been fantastic to see much of this being celebrated over social media, particular highlights including the amazing artwork produced by Marianne and the photos of VE celebrations. I would like to encourage you to keep up to date with what is going on by following us on our Facebook and Twitter feeds. We are clear in our vision that students striving to further themselves both academically and personally is never wasted and adopting great habits will give a better chance of success and increase their sense of well-being.

Finally, with much of what we are all doing now taking place on websites and through social media we wanted to highlight two sites to help you keep your children safe whilst online:

<https://www.ghll.org.uk/covid19/covid19-keeping-children-and-young-people-safe-online/>  
<https://nationalonlinesafety.com/>

Keeping our students, your children, safe is at the heart of everything we do and we trust that as we all work together to see our way through this situation that you will remain safe and well and in good spirits. When I write my next whole school letter I look forward to introducing you to the new staff who will be joining our team in September; another reminder that change and uncertainty can also bring so much good.

Kind regards,

Simon Phelps, Headteacher



School of  
**CHARACTER**

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