



HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

CEP/JDN

29 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you safe and well.

Last week, we welcomed our Year 10 and 12 students back into the school building for the first time since 20 March, joining the small number of vulnerable and key worker students who have been in school throughout lockdown. They came together in small groups to meet with some of their teachers for face-to-face sessions, focusing on discussing their academic progress and emotional wellbeing since the start of lockdown. Many students and staff arrived somewhat anxious but left at the end of their day in school feeling reassured that the systems in place for their safety worked well and the value they took from seeing peers and colleagues was clearly worth the challenge of overcoming their fears. The staff in school fed back anything they felt might need adjusting and we are confident that we have managed to maintain a secure and positive environment with constant vigilance relating to hygiene and safety. Throughout the time in school, the students behaved impeccably and it was wonderful to see some smiling young faces back in the building after such a long time.

This week the Y10 and 12 students will return again for sessions with a new group of their teachers, to support their learning in a range of subjects and ensure that any concerns or gaps can be addressed in order that they 'hit the ground running' when we hopefully return in a more 'normal' way in September. We only wish the situation was such that we could welcome all our students back in person before then, but the current government restrictions sadly mean that we must limit our provision to that which it currently is and continue to deliver our teaching and learning via our Teams lessons to other year groups. As you will be aware, there are an increasing number of variations on how our staff are delivering your child's lessons, as we get to grips with the various technological methods available to interact and connect with students in a more direct manner. The mix of delivery methods and resources is more reflective of our usual practice and I am incredibly proud and appreciative of how the staff have embraced this shift in practice and, in some cases, undertaken an extremely steep learning curve in order to provide the best support and learning experience for our students. This is even more impressive when they are now also adding face-to-face

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sessions and travelling to and from school into the structure of each working day, often extending their working hours even further than normal whilst also juggling their own family circumstances. The same must also be said of our pastoral and operational staff who have also adjusted their ways of working and have really pulled together as a staff team to make things work to support our students and each other in such difficult circumstances.

Please continue to support your child in their learning during the last three weeks of the academic year. We are setting work in a range of ways and are trying hard to balance workload for staff and students at the end of a very tiring year by adjusting deadlines and, in some cases, the type of work set. We will contact you again before we break for the summer to confirm how you can stay up to date with any developments that may impact on our return in September; you will understand that at present we simply do not know for sure what that will look like, but we are planning for a range of possibilities and will let you know as soon as we can what the start of the Autumn Term will look like.

Please do not hesitate to make contact with your child's Form Tutor or Student Support Manager if you have any concerns around their health, work or wellbeing – we are here to support in any way we can and are available by email or telephone.

Thank you again for all your ongoing support for us as a school during these challenging and constantly changing times. Stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Cath Proud

Associate Headteacher