



HECKMONDWIKE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

CEP/JDN

16 July 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students

As promised in my letter of 6 July, I am writing to update you on our plans for September 2020.

It is now a couple of weeks since the Government published its guidance on the full opening of schools from September and in that time we have been planning how to achieve the Government's ambitions in the context of HGS. This has been, and continues to be, a huge challenge. It is difficult to look too far into the future, particularly with another announcement due from the Government in mid-August, but with Bradford and Kirklees still having a significant number of Covid-19 infections at the moment, the health and safety of students, staff and their respective families will still be top of our agenda in September, whilst retaining our focus on providing the very best provision for learning we can. We have a draft plan in place for September but are meeting again before the start of term to reflect on any national guidance changes and ensure our plans will enable the start of the new academic year to run smoothly. However, school life as we know it will be very different in September: very little will be as "normal".

The details provided in my last letter should be revisited during the summer and any updates will be provided via our website and messaging system on 4th September. There will be a number of issues entirely beyond our control, such as community transmission rates and instructions from the DfE or other bodies, but whatever we can control, and wherever we can mitigate risk, we will. At that point in time, we will also revisit our risk assessment and this will then be approved by governors and published on our website for your information.

There are, however, a few additional details we would like to make you aware of in advance of the autumn term. These are as follows:

- The first week will be structured as a phased start for different year groups in order to induct them into the new working practices in school. On arrival, students will be directed to their year group 'bubble' meeting place and then taken to their form rooms. Specific detail of where this is for each year group will be issued in September. At present, the plan is for Years 7 and 12 to start back on Tuesday 8th September. For Year 12 this will be to complete the final stages of enrolment and is likely to be a period of around two hours only that day. Year 8 will then join them on Wednesday 9th September, Year 9 and 10 will start on Thursday 10th September and Years 11 and 13 will rejoin the school community on Friday 11th September. From Monday 14th September all students will be in school every day following their timetable of lessons.

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- The school day will retain the normal start and finish time due to the wide range of distances our students travel to and from school, however, the timetable will be adjusted to ensure year group bubbles do not mix and breaks and lunches will be staggered to support this and allow for additional cleaning of areas between sessions.
- In order to maximise the width of our corridors, students in years 7 to 10 will no longer have access to lockers. They will need to keep their belongings with them throughout the day. Year 11 and 6th form students will retain the option of having a locker but these will be in designated places that have enough room around them to maintain social distancing guidelines.
- As a result of the removal of lockers, our mobile phone policy will change. Students must switch off their phones on arrival and place them safely out of sight, either in bags or in blazer pockets. Any student seen on site using their phone will receive the established sanctions.

We will, of course, expect all of our students to adapt to our new expectations relating to one-way movement and social distancing with their usual high levels of co-operation in order to support the safety of everyone in our community. Should any students deliberately ignore the one-way system in place or deliberately undermine social distancing guidelines, this will result in the issue of an after-school detention. Repeat offences will be dealt with more severely.

Please can I remind you that school will be closing early tomorrow (17 July), as is usual on the final day, and so students in Years 10 and 12 who are in school that day for face-to-face sessions will complete all sessions but those vulnerable and key worker students who are also in school will finish at 12.30pm.

I hope we can all avoid as much fear and anxiety as possible by communicating effectively and working together as we usually do, in a spirit of openness and co-operation. The coming months will hopefully see a gradual return to something more familiar, but it will take time, and we might have to go through a number of changes and refinements before we reach our final 'normal'.

Seeing how our school community has responded so wonderfully to the challenges we have already faced since March, I have the utmost confidence in our ability to get through this and to come out the other side even better, even stronger, and even more amazing than HGS is already. For those students who have managed to keep up with their work, this weekend will bring a holiday from logging on each day. However, to support our students who have fallen behind with their studies, the work will remain on Teams for them to access and ensure they are up to speed by the time we return. The staff are also in desperate need of a rest and recharge, so will not be expected to respond to emails throughout the summer in order to support their wellbeing. However, I am aware that a few have spoken to their students and have offered some online support should students wish to access that at points over the summer.

It has been a real privilege to lead this school as Deputy Head, Associate Head and more recently Acting Head in the absence of Mr Roberts, and to work with the staff and students here over the past eight years. I will be sad to leave the school under these circumstances to take up my new position as Principal at a school in Bradford in September without having had the chance to properly say goodbye to the

students in person, but I hope they understand and I will hope to see many of them on the results days in August before I go.

I wish you all a restful, safe and enjoyable summer and all the very best for the future.

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cath Proud', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Cath Proud
Associate Headteacher