

12 May 2020

Dear Families

We hope you are well and enjoyed your Bank Holiday. I am sure many of you have very mixed feelings about the announcements made recently and what this means for you and your family. We know this is challenging and unsettling and we are doing everything we can to support. Following the Prime Minister's recent announcements over the past two evenings, we are making preparations to potentially re-open The Westgate School to some year groups during the final half-term before the summer holidays, although clearly at this point we don't quite know yet exactly what that will look like. Equally this will only be done if it is safe to do so. The Department of Education (DfE) has published some more guidance on preventative measures and expectations which we will be addressing.

Based on this initial guidance, and we are provisionally planning for the following scenario:

- To offer some element of face to face learning for Years 10 and 12 in early June, as these year groups will sit exams next year. Once these details have been planned and confirmed from the DfE that this can go ahead and as a school we are safe to do so we will be in touch.
- Safety of pupils and staff will remain our absolute priority; forthcoming DfE guidelines on social distancing and how to ensure the school is Covid19 ready, with the appropriate preventative measures, will be key to this.
- We will continue to be open to vulnerable children and children of key workers from all year groups.
- Our Remote Learning - Learning to Learn from Home - will continue for those year groups not in school.

I include a link to the guidance from the government which is for parents and carers for your reference.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers>

Clearly this is a difficult and complex situation and our main priority throughout this next phase will be to prioritise, as always, the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff. We will update you further once we have undertaken further planning to ensure we are ready and secure to move forwards. There have also been some exciting developments to our home learning which will be coming out to you before the end of the week and we hope this helps to strengthen what your children are doing remotely. We know these times are challenging but together we can support each other through these uncharted territories.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours faithfully

Mrs M Cooper
Head Teacher