



15 May 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

I know that many of you will be following the announcements made by the Government this week with regard to the partial re-opening of schools in England.

Currently, Plymstock School will continue to offer places for vulnerable children and those of key workers, but we understand that many parents will want to know more about when their children will return to School. Across the country, schools will also have heard this news for the first time and over the course of the next few weeks we will be reviewing the detailed guidance government has stated it will provide.

On Wednesday and Thursday evenings, detailed guidance was published for the first time for school leaders with a link document for parents and carers. Please read the link below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

Even today, further detailed guidance is due to be published specifically on the re-opening of secondary schools. Consequently, we are currently working hard to take the necessary action required in order to prepare to partially open the School on a phased return, to the identified year groups, in a safe manner.

Once we have the full and confirmed guidance, we will be:

- Working with you, as parents and carers, to understand your concerns and views so we can take these into consideration in our planning. We will issue a survey in the next week; please do take time to complete this for us.
- Conducting a student survey in order that we can reflect on student views in relation to their Home Learning studies, wellbeing support and how we can continue to improve our provision over the next few months.
- Undertaking a detailed review of transport arrangements, staffing ratios, and site management in line with government health and safety recommendations. This will help us to make a clear plan for the changes we need to make to support recommended hygiene and social distancing measures.

These initial actions will then enable us to consider in detail how we support the Government's plan for the remainder of the Summer Term:

- "For pupils in Year 10 and 12 we are asking schools to supplement remote education with some face to face support for these groups from 1 June 2020. We do not expect these pupils to return to school on a full-time basis at this stage."
- "We will ensure that students who have key exams next year have an understanding of how teachers will support them to stay on track with a blend of distance learning, independent study and attendance for some in school sessions." Prime Minister briefing

It is now clear that those students in all other Year Groups who have not attended School since the closures in March are not likely to return until September.

We will continue to prioritise pastoral care via telephone calls and emails, as well teachers communicating with students on their learning through Show My Homework to support students with their home learning tasks.

We are continuing to make the necessary improvements to increase teacher–student communication and opportunities to celebrate and praise students for their incredible perseverance and endeavours during this period.

We are also already committed to:

- The continuation of Educare on a full-time basis for the children of key workers and vulnerable students.
- Providing vouchers to support our families eligible for free school meals.
- Endeavouring to provide laptop devices to support vulnerable students who are struggling to access online learning. Please contact the School via the Year Group support email for further information.
- Submitting the required information to Examination Boards by the set deadlines.
- Ensuring that current Year 11 and Year 13 students are supported with the plans they have in place for transition to their next provision.
- Working closely with our primary partner schools to plan how we can support the experience for children joining our School in September.
- Ensuring that our distance learning resources and support continues to improve.

We will also need to think about how we develop the flexibilities that may be required if partial closures remain in place for a long period of time.

We hope to send you an update before the start of half term, once we have received further government guidance, which is due to be released over the next few days.

Thank you for continuing to support your children and the School, we appreciate the many thoughtful messages we continue to receive.

Yours sincerely



Rob Pearsall
HEADTEACHER

Please continue to use the support email addresses, on the following page, to contact the School if you have any questions or require further support with distance learning:

- Mrs Louise Duff, DIRECTOR OF LEARNING FOR YEARS 7-9, lduff@plymstockschool.org.uk
- Mr Mark Taylor, DIRECTOR OF LEARNING YEARS 10-11, MATaylor@plymstockschool.org.uk
- Miss Liz Monelle, DIRECTOR OF POST 16 emonelle@plymstockschool.org.uk
- Miss Evans, Associate Assistant Headteacher, SCHOOL OVERSIGHT OF DISTANCE LEARNING, bevans@plymstockschool.org.uk

Information about Distance Learning can be found here:

<https://plymstockschool.org.uk/distance-learning/>

Please do check our Plymstock School Newsfeed for all our latest updates and messages.

<https://plymstockschool.org.uk/news/>

Information on Mental Health and Wellbeing can be found here:

<https://plymstockschool.org.uk/mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

<https://plymstockschool.org.uk/positive-mental-health-and-wellbeing/>

and, specific information related to COVID-19 on our distance learning page below the Newsfeed banner.