



08 June 2020

Dear Parents / Carers

## Information on the partial re-opening of Plymstock School to Year 10 and Year 12

Following recent government announcements, and in line with other secondary schools in Westcountry Schools Trust (WeST), Plymstock School will be re-opened, on a limited basis, for Years 10 and 12 only, from Monday 15 June.

Last week the Department for Education (DfE), released further guidance to assist with the limited re-opening, a document that we have been waiting for and one that I have referred to in my previous correspondence with parents and carers before half term. You will find the guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools>

Government guidelines now require that only 25% of these year groups be in school at any one time. We have made direct contact with families in these year groups on initial planning and this week will share details in individual personal correspondence on when they should attend.

The site continues to be prepared for the partial re-opening on 15 June. As you will have read in the letters from our CEO, Rob Haring, Plymstock School and all the schools in WeST are undergoing a COVID-19 Risk Assessment, based on government guidance.

We are also adhering to the comprehensive '**WeST Wider Reopening of Schools Toolkit**'. A link to this document is on our school COVID 19 Distance Learning page <https://plymstockschool.org.uk/distance-learning/> and I hope this will support parents to understand the thorough and detailed assessment that is underway to inform our planning.

This week staff will be receiving induction into these new procedures and school systems; for example, entry and exit to the school, monitoring social distancing, how to teach and use classroom resources within restrictions, hygiene routines and most importantly the wider care of our young people's mental health and well-being.

## How will Plymstock School provide education for the remaining part of this academic year?

In his letter dated 5 June Rob Haring, West CEO, stated "As we enter this wider reopening phase, each school could be considered to be operating four mini-schools and it is this accumulation of activities that stretch our available resources."

Our school and all secondary schools will now provide four different educational offers/provisions to meet the needs of our students and families. At this time, no information has been made available to schools by the DfE on what this offer may look like in September.

I would like to thank you all for the feedback we have received about our online learning provision to date, including the responses to our Year 10 survey. We will be carrying out further surveys and will use this feedback to plan the next phase of our online provision. Mr Taylor, Mrs Duff, Miss Monelle and Miss Evans will continue to coordinate, oversee and lead this work.



I have outlined below the four types of 'mini school' - a summary of our provision:  
Edu-care, Supporting vulnerable children, Distance (Home) Learning, Curriculum Delivery

### **Edu-care**

Edu-care will continue on a daily basis until the end of the summer term and be supported by a team of staff on a rota basis. Our on-site provision is now split into two separate bubbles given the high number of places required.

The children of key workers and vulnerable children will continue to be able to access our Edu-care provision. For information regarding how to book a place for your child, please contact Miss Monelle, via email at: [emonelle@plymstockschool.org.uk](mailto:emonelle@plymstockschool.org.uk). Our Edu-care provision is available 9.00am to 3.00pm each weekday and will run alongside our partial re-opening to Year 10 and 12 students.

Students in Edu-care cannot move anywhere else about the site, as this would risk this group of students mixing with a group of students in school receiving lessons and thus increase risk for all.

Whilst in school, to reassure our students, our wider community and you, our parents and carers, **ALL** students on site will be required to observe social distancing at all times and adhere to school rules.

This will be strictly enforced and if a student is unable to maintain social distancing or does not stay in their allocated area with staff members, they will not be allowed to remain on site and will be asked to continue with distance learning at home.

### **Supporting vulnerable children**

Leeshia Walton, our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) along with Mr Sprenkel, (Deputy Head Pastoral) lead a team of designated pastoral staff from within our HUB team who are keeping in regular touch with children and families and liaising where appropriate.

### **Distance (Home) Learning**

From Monday 15th June the education of our students will continue to be driven using Distance Learning. This will be complemented by an in-school Face-to-Face programme for Years 10 and 12.

The emphasis for all students in this second half term will be on supporting, reviewing and moving forward with Distance Learning and providing Edu-care for the children of critical workers and vulnerable students.

All students will continue to receive high-quality distance learning provision from our staff in addition to their commitment to staffing Edu-care and delivering in school lessons to Years 10 and 12.

We will continue to prioritise pastoral care via telephone calls and emails, as well as 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.

### **Curriculum Delivery**

The education of our Year 10 and 12 students will continue to be driven using Distance Learning; this will be complemented by an in-school Face-to-Face programme. Government guidelines require that only 25% of each year group is in school at any one time.

### **Years 7, 8 and 9**

Although the government has restricted the access to onsite support for all other Year Groups who have not attended School since the closures in March, we, like you, would have very much liked to have seen their return to school.

As we move through the summer term, the Directors of Learning, responsible for the quality of Teaching and Learning, will contact parents about how this offer might change and evolve to meet the needs of learners. Their contact details are listed at the end of my accompanying FAQ document. Mr Taylor has recently written to the parents of Year 9 with regard to his role in supporting their option process and transition to Year 10.

### **Frequently Asked Questions to support parents**

Accompanying this letter is a document '**FAQ - Information for parents on re-opening of school for Yr10**' to support parents in Year 10 and 12 with answering questions with regards re-opening; an 'everything in one place' document that will be added to our website and updated as we move forward.

All parents will find this document useful to read, as it aims to address the many questions you will have.

### **Finally, *succeeding together***

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

I apologise for both the length and detail of these documents, I hope they convey the sheer scale of the work going on by our dedicated staff in order to prepare for a partial re-opening. They do highlight the work they are doing to achieve the very best support for both you and your children, despite the restrictions we are working within.

Our focus will be on ensuring the safety and well-being of our staff and learners in this next phase and specifically on the re-engagement, nurture and support for the young people who will be in school, despite what may look and feel like a different, sparse and sterile environment.

Our staff will continue to ensure, whatever environment or platform where learning takes place, our students are always both welcomed and cared for.

We are all looking forward to welcoming more of our students back into our school, it will be different but most importantly, familiar.

Yours sincerely



Rob Pearsall  
HEADTEACHER

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