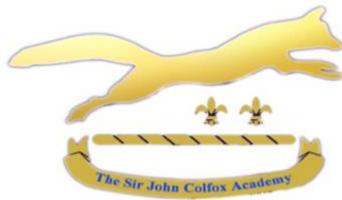


The Sir John Colfox Academy



Inspiring Learning, Achieving Excellence

Headteacher: Mr Adam Shelley MEd, BSc Hons, PGCE, NPOH

22 May 2020

Dear Parents,

With the news from the Government that primary schools will be welcoming back some students and secondary schools will be planning some more face to face contact with Y10 and Y12, I wanted to let you know the plans for Colfox.

It is worth reminding parents that the school still remains closed to students in other year groups and until the Government asks us to plan for wider opening this will remain the case. All year groups will continue to receive work using Teams or with the packs of resources that we are creating for those who do not have internet access. We will be working on how we can enhance this learning over the next half term, including more interactive lessons to try and give the students a better experience.

We all want to get back to normal and want to welcome all our students back. We know that this is the best place for them to learn. However, we have to ensure that we do this safely to protect our community and NHS. This will only be done when it is safe to do so and when the Government gives the go ahead for wider opening to happen.

For the next half term I have created a plan for Y10 and Y12. This will ensure that as we have more students in the building we can protect them and the community as much as possible from spreading and catching this devastating virus.

Many of you might be wondering why primaries are being asked to welcome back students before secondary schools and the reason is that primaries work on a different model. The guidance says that a group of students should be with the same teacher all day and they become one unit, therefore if any of the unit show symptoms they can be isolated without affecting other groups. This is not how a secondary school works, as our students are with different pupils in each class and with different teachers each hour, so there is a higher risk of transmitting the virus. This is also why it is not possible to bring all students even in Y10 and Y12 into the building to be taught by their normal teachers.

The Government has chosen Y10 and Y12 as they will be sitting their GCSE or A-level exams next year. They have asked for schools to look at how we can offer more 'face to face' sessions with these groups over the course of the next half term. In order to do this safely each of your child's teachers will be video calling via Teams for a focused session to talk through the work they have been doing and how they can consolidate their learning and what they need to do next. The work will continue to be set using Teams and students can contact their teacher as they have been doing if they need additional support. We have to consider the safeguarding issues so teachers will do this from school with another teacher in the room during these sessions. We are asking that a parent is present in the room as well. I have taken the decision not to do these sessions in person to avoid the risk of any transmission and to protect students and staff.

We will be inviting in students from Year 10 and Year 12 who we feel would benefit from coming into school to refocus or who have been working from the packs we have sent home. These groups will be written to separately during the week beginning the 1 June. We anticipate this to be approximately 40 year 10 and up to 20 year 12s in this first phase. These sessions will begin from the week beginning 8 June, providing we have the appropriate PPE and hygiene products in place (they are on order).

These groups will come into school for a tutorial session with a member of SLT or another teacher. The idea is to refocus them on their learning and set them some goals which will be followed up every week. After the tutorial session we will arrange to contact each student via a phone call each week. It then might be necessary to invite them in again for a further tutorial session or more time in school. These sessions will be for one hour in small groups of up to 10 students, we hope this will be a smaller number in most cases.

For those coming into school I have produced a comprehensive risk assessment and staggered start and end times to ensure we can keep students safe. They will also have different routes in and out of the building with hand sanitizer and regular handwashing.

I fully understand if your child is asked to come in that you might feel worried or you may not want to take this risk. We will not take any action, if you decide not to send them in. However, we are only inviting those in who we feel need to refocus their learning to be ready for Y11 and Y13. We will send you all the information about how we are keeping them as safe as possible so you can make an informed decision.

As well as these two groups of students we will also continue to support keyworkers' children, those with EHCPs and our more vulnerable students, as we have been doing since the school closed on the 20 March. Over the course of the lockdown we have had a steady increase in the number of these students attending school. I wanted to reassure those parents that I have put measures in place to ensure that when we invite more students in this group will remain safe. I shall be briefing these students, who have been attending, in the week of 1 June so they will know how this will work, the areas of the school that they will now have access to and how the timetable will run.

As I have said throughout my letters during this lockdown my priority is to ensure that I do everything I can to keep the community safe from this terrible virus while ensuring we are supporting students' education in the best way we can during these difficult times.

I know things have not been perfect, but I would like to thank the way that parents, students, teachers and support staff have worked together to make the best of this situation. I am sure that now we move into this next phase we will become stronger and continue to work together to help fight the virus, protect as many as we can and keep our students learning.

I will write again as I get more information from the Government. I hope that there will be some information about opening in the longer term from them soon. As I am, like you, thinking about how things might look in September.

Take care of yourselves, your family and stay safe.

Yours sincerely,



Adam Shelley
Headteacher