

May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Parental Update No 8

I hope you are all doing well and staying safe. Your efforts and energy into home schooling for your children has been amazing and as a staff we are very proud of how well you have all coped with the work and keeping the students motivated. We know how hard it can be. Please give yourselves a huge 'clap' – you deserve it.

Our strategies at CVEA have been excellent from the start of this lockdown, as we have listened and watched other schools, it makes me very proud to see how well my staff have adapted to remote teaching and pastoral care. They deserve a huge 'clap' too!

There is much speculation every day suggesting what is happening next with schools. Once again nothing has officially been decided on as to when or how they will re-open. At CVEA we are still open for key workers' children and any vulnerable students. Please let us know if you need support and meet the criteria. At the moment the safest place for our children is still 'at home'! If you need us please use enquiries@cvea.co.uk. On Sunday the Prime Minister announced the return to school for some primary school students, following that on Monday a further Department for Education (DfE) announcement suggested the partial re-opening of secondary schools for Year 10 students. There has been much confusion as to what this will exactly 'look like' and Head Teachers are allowed to plan this appropriately and as safely as possible. It appears from information released by the DfE that students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will not return for the remainder of this academic year, however, this could be subject to change by the Government. The suggestion for Year 10, subject to further progress towards the five layer tests set by Government, is that the week commencing 1st June (after May half term) schools could offer some face to face support to Year 10 to supplement their remote learning.

At CVEA we will plan what this may look like and will consult with all Year 10 parents/carers in the coming weeks. I had begun to prepare for a potential return, in whatever form that may take.

At the moment I have facility and cleaning staff in the building along with support staff cleaning up areas and deep cleaning. Many of our practices will have to change as we follow the social distancing measures and the handwashing protocols set out by the government. We are removing all paper/books/clothing etc. and are ensuring all surfaces can be cleaned regularly throughout the day.

Some of our practices such as 'lending' pens/pencils/rulers/calculators, ties, shoes, tops, blazers and PE 'kit' will no longer be allowed. Once a return to school is agreed we will be working with you to ensure students have this kit on them at all times and it is only used by them. It is essential that your child brings the minimum of a pen, pencil and ruler to school, otherwise they will not be able to complete any work.

Handwashing will take place about 6-8 times per day. We may have staggered starts, no cars or adults in the car park, and no adults other than teaching /school staff within the building. We want to be sure we are as SAFE as we possibly can be.

We will be issuing guidance on health and safety, behaviour and social distancing for all as we adjust our policies and procedures to meet the government guidance.

I have registered the Academy as a key worker facility and all of our staff will be able to be tested to ensure there is no risk to students or other staff. We are trialling this via the NHS this week.

We will not be following a normal school day and we will have part-time, staggered days with an emphasis on safety.

Year 11

We have now received further guidance and will be using our own data, mock results and predictions to award potential grades. Can I remind all parents/carers and students that we are NOT allowed to disclose or discuss this. It would be deemed to be malpractice and potentially disciplinary for any staff to share information. Exam boards will moderate our entries and we will have no idea until results day how each individual will do in each subject. The Governing Body and I will sign off this data for entry to the exam boards.

If you have any queries in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact us by email enquiries@cvea.co.uk.

Please keep safe, and thank you for your continued support.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J S Bridges OBE
Principal

