



KING JAMES'S SCHOOL

KNARESBOROUGH

4th June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Can I firstly thank all of you for the support you continue to give around online learning and looking after our young people. Teachers, students and parents are finding this disconnection from school very difficult, the more so the longer this goes on. My update today is mainly for parents and students in **Year 12 and Year 10** where I will explain that we are ready for a phased and limited return to school. Two other quick points for all parents first.

Welfare Survey:

You will recall that last half term we did a survey for online learning and for welfare checks. We are repeating the welfare checks for this half term. Please do encourage your children to complete it. It will be rolling out in the next couple of days and the deadline is 19th June. This allows tutors and the pastoral team to keep an eye on pupil wellbeing.

Online Learning:

With little prospect of a return to school for Years 7 to 9 this term we continue to put all our effort into online learning. We are developing staff training to be able to deliver more live and interactive sessions and we are keeping a careful log of which students are struggling to complete work so that we can follow this up. We are well aware of the challenges with online learning and we do encourage you to contact us you have any queries or technical support.

Year 12 and Year 10 - Return to school:

In the **week commencing 15th June** we will be inviting Year 12 students back into school for some face-to-face contact with their teachers. On **Thursday 18th June**, we will begin to offer an opportunity for Year 10 students to have some catch up teaching in their core subjects. The exact details are not in this letter, they will follow next week.

You will appreciate that staff availability is still an issue for us. It may not always be possible to communicate well in advance, for Year 12, which students we need in school. The Year 10 programme will be more fixed. **Please keep an eye on your emails over the next couple of weeks.**

I also appreciate that this national decision to re-open schools has met with some controversy. Whatever side of the fence you sit on, we will respect your individual decisions. The face-to-face teaching cannot fully make up for lost time, so the online learning will continue. If there are extremely clinically vulnerable people in your household you may not wish to, or will be unable to, send pupils back into school.

Next week we will set up a designated email address where you can let us know if any Year 10 or Year 12 are **not able to attend** the sessions that we are putting on. This will help us to manage numbers and to understand the reasons why some people may be unable to, or have anxieties around, attending.

If you have a son or daughter in Year 12 or Year 10 we will be contacting you with further details next week (week commencing 8th June). There will be a video to watch which will guide you through the measures we have put in place to make school as safe as possible.

A detailed version of our risk assessment will also be available on the website after approval by our governors next Tuesday.

Although we have the site ready for hygiene and social distancing, we are still working on some finer details of the timetable. Year 12 will not have access to their full normal timetable but we will let them know which lessons are available for them to access should they want to, and be able to, come into school.

Government advice tells us that we should aim to have a quarter of the year groups on site at any one time, so this means that Year 10 will be split into quartiles and will come into school on a rolling programme. They will not be in every day. We will send details of the groups next week. The sessions will be in the **mornings only** and will start with English and maths.

Current provision for key worker children continues as it has over the past few weeks with those Year 10 key worker children joining the extra lessons when they are available.

I will be in contact again next week; in the meantime do have a good weekend.

Yours sincerely,



Mr CA Sugden
Headteacher