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Richard Brand: Headteacher

26<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you have had a good week and been able to enjoy some of this wonderful weather. It has been another busy week at school with an increased number of Year 10 students returning to complete face to face lessons and engage with lessons in English, Maths and Science. The students who have returned to school have been excellent and we cannot be more proud of the way they have shown real grit and determination particularly in these hot conditions! As I said before, their excitement and engagement has filled me with hope that whatever happens in September, we will hit the ground running with them in their last year in school.

You will have read in the media a number of different discussions around schools reopening in September. We are hugely grateful for your patience here as government guidance for schools is yet to be released. Until this happens, we are unable to communicate with you in full. As we await further guidance, please be reassured that we are working behind the scenes to plan a safe full return to school and we will share this with you when we have firm plans.

As we look to September, we have been working with staff to build in plans around a number of scenarios. Some of the most exciting work to come out of these discussions is our plan to trial live lessons and drop in seminars for students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 over the coming weeks so we can evaluate what works should we ever need to close in the future. Staff have been asked on a voluntary basis to run some face to face contact and a timetable has been sent out this week to inform you when these live lessons will be held. They will all happen via Microsoft Teams and instructions will be sent to students via Class Charts (written and video form) to ensure they are able to log on and sign in to these. It is vital that the "live lesson protocol" is adhered to and we would be grateful if you could talk through this with your child beforehand. Year 10 will have an opportunity to work with their Options teachers via online learning and lessons will be recorded and sent to those students where there is a clash with in school lessons. If you have any questions around online learning, please contact Declan Mooney (Deputy Head Teacher), or use the IT support form on the school website should you have connectivity issues.

Now social distancing guidelines have been relaxed, students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have also been allocated a meeting time with their tutor or Head of Year over the coming weeks and we hope to see as many parents and carers at these meetings as possible. We have chosen to set up these meetings as we are keen to celebrate all the hard work students have put into the last 90 or so days at home and to help support some as they prepare for return in September. If you have any questions around this, please contact your child's Head of Year in the first instance (all staff emails are on the school website).

In the run up to the summer holidays, the Government have also announced that the Free School Meals voucher scheme will continue to run for this six week period. These vouchers can be requested via Mr Mooney should you be eligible. Please also contact him if you believe that your situation has changed and you may now qualify for this support. In addition, the school's Food Bank continues to run and we hope to



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welcome as many families as possible to access this before the summer break. If you feel this support would help your family situation, please contact Emily Smith (Deputy Head Teacher).

Finally, our Year 10 students have been busy applying for roles within the Senior Student Team and staff and Year 10 students will be voting over the coming week for roles including Head Boy, Head Girl, Deputies, Care and Guidance Leads and Community and Charity Leads. They will all then be interviewed by members of the Senior Leadership Team and their Head of Year and will be allocated roles before the summer holidays. Watch this space for an update!

Thank you for all your ongoing support with home learning, please enjoy the Bright Spots bulletin for this week which contains more work which shows just what a great community of students we work with!

Yours sincerely

**Richard Brand**  
Headteacher

