

19 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

We are hoping that you are all remaining safe and well as we continue to adapt and respond to the ongoing Coronavirus pandemic. This letter provides further updates with regards to the final weeks of term.

September 2020

As a school we are continuing to plan for a variety of scenarios for the start of the new academic year in September, in light of the latest government guidance, which as we are aware is constantly changing and being updated. We are hopeful to be able to communicate plans to parents before we break up for the summer. However, this will be dependent on clear recommendations from the government arriving in a timely manner to allow us to plan to ensure the correct risk assessment is in place. As part of this process, departments will be reviewing curriculum coverage for all students to ensure that students are not disadvantaged in their studies.

The link below directs you to the government website (last updated at time of writing this was 15th June 2020) and you may find it useful to refer to. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-secondary-schools>

You may also be aware that Gavin Williamson is due to launch the Governments 'Big Catch-up Plan' next week. We have been led to believe that that this plan involves the use of private tutors who will be in schools delivering support which will comprise of a mixture of online and face-to-face sessions, designed to support and complement students' regular school work. It is important to note that the Government have stated that this will be targeted particularly at those serving disadvantaged communities where learning loss is likely to be greatest. We are unclear at this time how much additional support that Hungerhill students will receive, but once this has been made clear we will ensure parents are kept fully informed.

Distance Learning

Distance learning will continue for the rest of this academic year using Microsoft Teams. We are reviewing how to make sessions more interactive. Some departments are currently trialling question and answer sessions, the use of voice over lessons and lessons that have been provided by the DfE (Oaks Academy which provide direct teacher instruction). We had planned as a school to move on this across all year groups, however, the reopening of school to our Year 10 students (we have 67.5% of the cohort attending) has impacted on capacity and the ability to upskill staff in these processes. However, in the event that students do not return full time in September, we will ensure that all students can access these forms of lessons across the curriculum.

Year 10 Return

We are monitoring closely the actions we have already taken and will continue to do so on a daily basis to ensure that everything remains safe for all of our staff and students. Feedback has been extremely positive from staff, students and parents/carers. It has been wonderful to welcome so many of the year group back into school and we appreciate the disappointment that our other year groups may have in not being able to experience this opportunity.

As part of our plans for the new academic year, we will be consulting with Year 10 parents shortly on proposals for possibly extending the school day to allow for additional English, maths and science to take place and a bespoke intervention programme to take place during a week of the summer holidays.

Year 11

Understandably students and parents are awaiting news regarding GCSE results day. Results will be released, as far as we are aware, on 20th August by the exam boards. We are currently awaiting guidance regarding social distancing in how we can conduct results day this year. We have planned for several scenarios and as soon as we know the government recommendations, we will share these with you hopefully before we break up for the summer.

As per the letter circulated on 2nd June, unfortunately, we have now received confirmation from Castle Park Rugby Club that our Prom has been cancelled due to Covid-19 and will not be able to go ahead. While we understand that students, staff members and parents will be very disappointed with this outcome, ensuring everyone's safety remains our priority. We would like to reassure Year 11 students that we do want to provide students with an opportunity to celebrate their time at Hungerhill School together and a chance to formally say 'goodbye'. It is highly likely that this event will take place at Hungerhill School and take the form of an extra-ordinary leavers' assembly. We are very keen to include students in the organisation and preparation of this and we will begin to discuss ideas with students before we break up for the summer.

Internal Exams

The school has made the decision not to hold end of year exams with Key Stage 3 at this time. However, we are moving to a formalised assessment programme from September 2020. Staff have been working on the current STARs assessments that we use across the school, these are now much more robust and challenging as they align with GCSE expectations. Students will sit these half-termly across the school and we will ensure that there is a whole school process in place to feedback key assessment data to parents/carers on a half termly basis. For information regarding Year 9 and 10 exams, please see the letters which were circulated on 8th and 9th June on the school website.

<https://www.hungerhillschool.com/news/?pid=8&nid=3&storyid=311>

Uniform

We recently circulated a letter from Cliffs Schoolwear with regard to the processes in place for ordering school uniform. This letter is available on the school website:

<https://www.hungerhillschool.com/news/?pid=8&nid=3&storyid=311> Before making any purchases, we would like to advise you to visit the uniform section on our webpage where you will find a newly created video outlining all of our uniform requirements, as well as, guidance on our rules around shoes, coats, bags,



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jewellery, make-up and hair. This will help to eliminate any errors being made when we return next academic year. <https://www.hungerhillschool.com/page/?title=School+Uniform&pid=66>
Parents are advised to order uniform before Friday 31st July.

Form Tutor Reports

Due to the effects of Covid-19, many students and some staff were absent from school prior to the official 'lock down'. As students have spent so much time learning at home we do not feel it is appropriate to give an academic assessment on the reports at this time. The intention is to report on this more frequently next year in terms of assessment and academic progress.

Year 7 Form Tutor Reports will be circulated to parents the week commencing 29 June.
Year 8 ROA circulated week commencing Monday 9 March prior to the school closure.
Year 9 Form Tutor Reports will be circulated to parents the week commencing 13 July.
Year 10 Form Tutor Reports will be circulated to parents the week commencing 13 July.

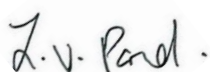
Form Tutor 'Face to Face' Meetings

We have scheduled 'face to face' meetings for students in all year groups via Microsoft Teams with their form tutor. These are conducted on a 4:1 ratio to allow students to feel confident to contribute in this forum. Within these sessions, staff have focussed on pastoral issues connected with lockdown as well as utilising the opportunity to provide a link for subject teachers to bridge any teaching and learning issues.

Year 7 – Week Commencing 29th June
Year 8 – Week Commencing 6th July
Year 9 – Weeks Commencing 15th and 22nd June
Year 10 – Conducted Week Commencing 1st June

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to those parents who have taken the time to contact us to thank staff for their efforts during this challenging time.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs L Pond
Interim Headteacher



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