

14<sup>th</sup> July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well? I appreciate that things seem to be less serious with the country opening wider on a daily basis, however; we are still in the midst of the Covid -19 pandemic and must remain vigilant and careful, employing all the measures of social distancing and good hygiene where possible.

Further to my letter dated 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020, the College continues to remain open for our pupils and will do so until the end of the academic year, Friday 17<sup>th</sup> July. Our planning has now turned towards a full opening in September. Although we already have a number of safety measures in place, we will be making further adaptations to our sites and will be issuing an updated risk assessment at the start of next academic year.

The safety and welfare of our staff and students remains paramount and we have the support of both the Local Authority and our Trustees to support pupils returning in full in September. In order to ensure that everything is in place and that we are ready to welcome back all of our young people for a full-time curriculum, we need to ensure that everyone is trained appropriately in all the new and existing procedures. Therefore, the first 3 days of the year will be utilised as training days with target setting day taking place on **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September** and all pupils expected in school, full time from **Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> September**. Your Head of Centre will be in contact early next year with exact dates and times for target setting, which may differ from centre to centre.

The reasonable measures we have put in place to ensure a safe environment, include but are not limited to:

- Ensuring class sizes, which are already small, remain so, with no more than 8 in a class. We will ensure, as far as possible that the staff supporting the class remain as consistent as possible but we cannot guarantee that specific mentors will be available to support your child.
- Keeping class groups together for the period of time that they are on site, keeping mixing to a minimum eg. by staggering eating times in the dining rooms.
- Reminding young people to wash their hands often and ensuring sanitiser is available in every centre.
- Reminding all staff and pupils to maintain social distancing where possible. However; this is no longer a government directive as it is difficult to achieve.
- Ensuring, where possible, that all desks face forward with the teacher teaching from the front of the class.
- Ensuring that every centre is thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day with the staff concentrating on high touch areas and surfaces.
- Maintaining each centre as its own bubble. Therefore, an infection in that bubble may result in the whole centre being closed.

### Attendance

As I am sure you are aware, the government has announced that from September attendance at school for every child is compulsory and that schools will be able to reintroduce the enforcement measure of issuing fines for non-attendance. We appreciate that there may well be some anxiety for our pupils and parents regarding the full opening of school and we will work with you to ensure that you have all your questions answered and you feel secure in our preparations. We will only consider enforcement fines once we have done all we can to positively encourage school attendance.

*Inspiring and supporting young people to make positive choices about the future*

### **Transport to School**

Our Home-to-School transport team have been working throughout the lockdown period and will continue next academic year. If you feel you are entitled to Home-to School transport then please contact your Head of Centre to complete the appropriate application. Failure to complete the application may result in the service being withdrawn. If you are not entitled to Home-to-School transport please consider how your child will normally travel to school. Where possible public transport should be avoided and walking or cycling should be encouraged.

### **Localised Lockdown**

There has been much talk in the press regarding the need for localised lockdown if a spike in infection occurs. We are in constant communication with Slough Borough Council regarding this and will align our procedures to their expectations. The first two weeks back in September will be aimed at ensuring that every young person is able to access remote education from home in the event of another lockdown. We want to do our best to ensure that there is no more lost education

We know that the last four months has been a very difficult time for our young people and their families and thank you for all your support and understanding during this time. I hope that you have a pleasant and safe summer holiday and look forward welcoming everyone back in September.

Yours sincerely,



Jamie Rockman  
**Executive Headteacher**