

22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you safe and well? Further to my letter dated 14th May 2020, the College continues to plan for a wider opening of schools next half term. However; as I am sure you are aware many schools and local authorities across the country, including those in Slough, are finding the 1st June reopening date very ambitious especially when the government has not yet announced that it has met the 5 key measures making it safe to return to school or provided guidance to secondary schools on how to do so effectively.

As with any wider opening at this time, 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 only encourage pupils to return once we believe it is safe to do so. Therefore, at this point in time and dependent on further updates from the government, it is likely that we will only be starting a phased return from **Monday 8th June**. The government has advised that they will confirm their intentions on 28th May, which falls within half term, and we will only be in a position confirm any wider opening after that date. Your Head of Centre will be in contact early next term with exact dates and times, which may differ from centre to centre. I must reiterate that this will only go ahead if we feel it is safe to do so.

We are planning to put all reasonable measures in place to ensure a safe environment, including but not limited to:

- Class sizes are already small and will remain so, with no more than 8 in a class. With the staff supporting them remaining as consistent as possible but we cannot guarantee that specific mentors will be available to support your child.
- We will be 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.
- Young people will be reminded to wash their hands often and sanitizer will be available in every centre.
- All staff and pupils are reminded to maintain a 2m social distancing rule. However; along with the government, we recognise that this is difficult to achieve in any school.
- Every centre will be thoroughly cleaned at the end of each day with the staff concentrating on high touch areas and surfaces.

Although we will put these measures in place to keep everyone as safe as possible, it is important that I am as honest and open as I can be, we cannot guarantee you that these measures will be strictly adhered to by our pupils. It is almost universally recognised that asking pupils to maintain a social distance of 2 metres at all times is nigh on impossible due to the natural and unavoidable contact between them and the size and layout of school buildings. Ultimately, it will be up to you as parents/carers to decide if you feel the measures in place are reasonable enough to keep your child safe or if you will continue to keep them safe at home. We will continue to provide support and online learning via TEAMS for those students who remain at home.

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

In the meantime, we will continue to be open for those pupils that are the children of key workers or those defined as vulnerable by the government criteria. If you feel that your child falls within this category but has not been offered a place, please contact your Head of Centre directly. Please note that in order to prepare for the wider opening of the centres and to give staff a well-earned break we will be **closed to all pupils over the half term week.**

Thank you for all your help, support and understanding during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,



Jamie Rockman
Executive Headteacher