

19 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: Provision from 1st June

Thank you for your continued partnership and for the lovely messages of support and thanks which have been passed to colleagues. I do hope that this letter finds you and your family well.

We have been incredibly impressed by how well pupils throughout our school have engaged with the learning that has been set and as a whole community, how we've managed to adjust to this new way of working. That said, it is nonetheless upsetting that children can't attend school as they should and this situation is far from ideal. We are very mindful of how Year 10 pupils may be worried about their GCSE courses and have written to the Government and other national bodies to ask that an urgent review happens of the requirements for this cohort. It is at the forefront of our minds.

Meanwhile, the Government has indicated that we may be able to provide some limited face to face support for pupils in Year 10 to supplement the home learning provision – with effect from 1st June, all being well. I don't believe we will have the official go ahead until the end of this month however, we have made the following plans should this be possible – whilst using resources as effectively as possible to be able to continue to provide home learning for pupils in Years 7-9.

Parents/Carers will no doubt be feeling the same levels of uncertainty about phased returns for schools and we intend to move to any additional face-to-face support in a very careful and measured way so that colleagues and families can take this step together, assessing the situation as we go.

Year 10 Core Workshops in School

House Leaders are working with colleagues to identify pupils who may particularly benefit from face to face support to support from a teacher in English, Maths and Science.

These pupils will mostly be already known to us because of family circumstances, SEND needs or for other reasons. We are targeting our workshops to these groups so that we have the capacity to continue to provide online learning provision for pupils in Years 7-10 who can't be in school as well as those children of key workers who are with us on a daily basis.

The workshops will take place **on Tuesday and Thursdays each week from the week beginning the 8th June**. They will run from **9.30-12.45pm** and will be by **invitation from the House Leaders**.

If you receive an invitation and your child would have difficulty with transport owing to the timings, please do let me know and we will do our best to help.

Year 10 Practical Work

For all pupils, practical work forms a central part of the learning. We are awaiting information from the examination boards with respect to how such assessments can take place but meanwhile, are working on plans that may enable us to provide the opportunity for some practical work to all Year 10 pupils who study these GCSES at some point in the next half term – if it is safe to do so.

I know that parents will appreciate the uncertainty of the current situation and difficulties in planning for such logistics so please do bear with us and we will update you as soon as we are able to share some firm arrangements for your child.

Key worker and Vulnerable pupil provision Year 7-9

We are still providing a provision for children of key workers and those identified as "vulnerable". This will continue to run from 10am – 2pm each day. Please email me direct on wildent@testvalley.hants.sch.uk if you feel you qualify for this provision and are in need of it.

Next Steps

We are all united in the hope that as a country, we may slowly be on the road to recovery and therefore, really need to be able to close the school over half term as would normally be the case. I'm proud of our team in our school – many of whom like other key workers, have not had any break since the spring half term.



In order for our school to continue to function well, pupils and adults alike will need to take some time over the May half term to refresh and to plan so that we are able to continue effectively when we return in June. If you are a key worker and are in particular difficulty over half term because both parents have to work, please contact us using my email address provided and we will do our best to help – perhaps in liaison with other schools.

Hopeful that the beginning of June can bring some familiar routines to our school and that these are the first tentative steps to a return, we ask that when attending school, all pupils wear uniform whether it be for workshops in Year 10 or, children of key workers in years 7-9. We will be sharing with pupils some important health and safety information when they come to school. House Leaders will contact pupils in Year 10 who are being invited in for the workshops, all being well, after half term.

We have updated our behaviour policy to reflect the need to ensure safety in school in relation to social distancing. This is attached and, like all our policies, can also be found on the website.

Finally, a huge thank you to parents and carers not only for how well you are supporting children in their learning, but for your overwhelming support and kindness throughout what has thus far, been an incredibly difficult time for all schools. For children not to have the education to which they are entitled is really quite devastating – but not more important than our immediate health. Therefore, we thank you so much for your partnership and kindness as we all work together through these unprecedented times.

With best wishes to you family,

Ms T Wilden
Head of School