



Aldercar High School

In pursuit of excellence

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Head Teacher: Mrs C Hatto

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Once again, we thank you for your support over the last few weeks and hope that both you and your family are safe and healthy.

I am writing to you following the announcements by the Prime Minister last week and the Government's plan to gradually ease the lockdown restrictions, including school re-openings. I hope that the information below, which currently relates to schools across England and therefore your child's education at Aldercar High School, is helpful.

Until further notice, Aldercar High School will continue to operate as now, i.e. provision is closed to all except children classed as vulnerable or children of critical workers. If your child is not in these limited categories, please continue to make best use of the online learning that is available so that they can keep up with their education as much as possible.

From Monday 1st June, the Government has said there will be a phased return of schools and colleges. This will start with a limited number of year groups in primary schools (Reception, Year 1 and Year 6). The Government hopes that all primary school children will return to school before the summer holidays for a month, if feasible.

In terms of secondary schools like Aldercar High School, the Government has said that they should also prepare to begin some face-to-face contact with Year 10 and Year 12 pupils who have key exams next year, in support of their continued remote, home learning. Whilst no date has been set for this return, the Government has set a review date of 28th May 2020 when it will decide how such returns can go ahead. I will then write to you again with more information specific to Aldercar High School.

These new plans will run alongside the provision currently provided at school. Unfortunately, there are no plans for any other students in Years 7, 8 and 9 to return to school before September (for which we have no guidance on as yet). As a result, staff will continue to set work for these students.

Whilst we are preparing to extend the opening of the school for students in Years 10 and 12, I would like to give you every assurance that we are already working very hard to consider all operational practicalities and attempting to mitigate risks associated with putting in place some small group arrangements where students can see their teacher in person.

We are therefore planning for a partial return for students in Years 10 and 12 initially with their Tutors to allow some face to face contact. In order to reduce movement around the site, limit contact with others and to support social distancing, students will stay in Tutor rooms.

We are then looking at how we can extend this to some face to face teaching in the core subjects. However, any teaching that takes place in school will be supported by work that

students should be completing at home. Whilst we will try to have students in their usual teaching groups, this may not always be possible.

Whilst I cannot and will not declare the school will be risk free, I would like to make you aware of some of the other actions that we are planning to take in order to minimise risks should the Government continue with their plans for Year 10 and Year 12 students:

- whilst the Government has suggested that PPE (masks, gloves etc) is not necessary in schools, we want to create the safest environment we can and therefore will, as other advice suggests, welcome these. Staff may also be wearing this equipment, except when needing to talk to their class;
- classrooms will be deep cleaned in accordance with the capacity of our cleaning teams;
- we will attempt to restrict contact with others. Students will be expected to observe the 2 metre rule, remaining in the same seat all day;
- strict one-way systems will be in operation;
- breaks will be staggered to prevent gatherings;
- we will be operating a reduced day;
- all Government advice will be adhered to should a student or member of staff develop symptoms, including a 14-day isolation for other students in the vicinity as well as other household members where symptoms develop;
- students will work on the same lessons and cover the same topics as those available to students who do not attend, so students at home do not miss work.

In addition, we ask for your help in ensuring that students are prepared to return to a new way of working. For example:

- no one should come to school if they are displaying symptoms of coronavirus;
- please speak to your child about what they need to do to remain socially distant;
- please speak to your child about the need for cleanliness, particularly with washing with soap and sanitising hands;
- please ensure your child has their own equipment for learning including pens, pencils, ruler and rubber as students will not be able to borrow equipment;
- please do not gather at entrance gates or doors, and do not enter the school site unless you have a pre-arranged appointment.

Finally, I wanted to let you know how proud I have been of the pupils over the last few weeks. Whether they are among the small number who have been in school or, like most, they have been at home, I know that they have been a credit to themselves. A number of you have been kind enough to tell us how they are getting on, and what learning they have been doing, and of course I get updates from our staff.

We do enjoy hearing what they are doing, so please keep letting us know and please keep encouraging them to keep up with their studies.

Yours sincerely



Mrs C Hatto
Head Teacher