

8 June 2020

Dear Year 12 and 10 Parents/carers,

**Re: possible reopening of school to more pupils in June**

We know you've seen in the news that schools may partially reopen from 15 June to Year 10 and Year 12 pupils, **if the government thinks it's safe to do so**. This however will not be on a full-time basis, but will allow pupils to get some face-to-face contact with teachers to support their home learning.

It's a very unsettling time for us all, but rest assured that we're going to be doing everything we can to make sure we are ready to receive these year groups if it's safe for our school to reopen in the coming weeks. I remain committed to ensuring the safety and well being of the students, my staff and your families. As many of you are aware the R factor remains high in the South West.

The Senior Leadership Team and I have spent a large amount of time planning the Year 10 and 12 onsite offer and ensuring we have undertaken appropriate health and safety checks, risk assessments and have measure in place to protect your sons and daughters, my staff and you as parents.

I want to reassure you that we are not going to be pressuring any pupil to come into school. What we will do is provide an opportunity for Year 10 and 12 students to come onto the site for some face to face contact with teachers to support their home learning. We will be asking you as Parents to decide if you wish your son or daughter to:-

1. Access the site on a part time basis for some face to face contact with teachers to support their home learning
2. Remain solely based at home accessing home learning during this time.

***Home learning via TEAMS will remain the substantive part of our education offer at this time and until the point that it is safe for more students to come onto site for longer periods.***

**Those students who should not return to school**

- If your child is clinically extremely vulnerable, or living with someone who is in this group, they should not come back to school and should continue home learning.

- If your child is clinically vulnerable (but not clinically extremely vulnerable), you should follow medical advice to decide if they should come back to school. Please refer to [government guidance](#) for further details of these groups.

## **Vulnerable Pupils and Children of Critical Workers**

The school will be still open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of critical workers in Years 7,8 and 9. We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but unfortunately we are not in a position right now to extend places to other pupils until we receive further government guidance.

If you believe that your son or daughter is a vulnerable pupil or you are a critical worker and have not yet accessed school and now wish to, please contact Mrs Pitman on [lpitman@sexey.somerset.sch.uk](mailto:lpitman@sexey.somerset.sch.uk)

Provision for Vulnerable Pupils and Children of Critical Workers will remain based in Lisbury Barn. Students should enter the school site through the boarding drive. Parents who are using cars to drop off their children, please pull in at the designated area near Lisbury House to drop off and pick up your son or daughter. Please **DO NOT** drop them off at the main site or reception.

## **Can my son or daughter attend school?**

Yes, Year 10 and 12 students will be invited onto the site at set times. However, if they are presenting with Corona virus symptoms or a member of the family with whom they live are presenting with these symptoms, they may not attend the school site and should follow government advice around self isolation.

## **What happens if my son or daughter becomes unwell when onsite?**

If a student displays symptoms that could be Corona virus related, they will be taken to an isolation room where they will be asked to remain until you can collect them. They will need to be collected by an adult, and this will need to happen as soon as possible. Once collected your son or daughter will need to self isolate for 7 days and may not return to school for at least 7 days. A staff member will stay with them during their time in the isolation room but will use PPE equipment as necessary, in line with Government advice.

## **What happens if a staff member or student presents with Corona virus symptoms?**

We will advise them to seek a test to confirm if the symptoms are Corona virus related, and if so they will need to notify the school and self-isolate together with their family. All students and staff who have been in school and in the group with that staff member or student will be

notified and provided with relevant and up to date advice in line with NHS and Government policy.

### Year 10 Phase 3B Provision

In line with Government policy the majority of Year 10 students learning will remain home learning and we will continue with the Phase 3 timetable using TEAMS lessons, independent learning sessions, and TEAMS drop in sessions. In addition to this, Year 10 students will be invited onto the school site once a fortnight for a face to face Maths, English and Science lesson. The teacher will be a subject specialist but may not be their current normal teacher.

Students will be grouped by their Science sets for these lessons. This is to ensure we create a "bubble" and therefore reduce the mixing of students and in doing so not placing the students or staff at increased risk. Under the Government policy, I am only permitted to have up to 25% of the Year Group population on the school site at any one time. For this reason, the Year 10 student's onsite learning days will be Tuesday and Wednesday.

When students are not onsite accessing face to face teaching, they will be continuing with the Phase 3 timetable with TEAMS lessons, independent learning sessions and TEAMS drop in sessions. To help further support the options subjects where students are not accessing face-to-face contact additional TEAM lessons will be added to the student's timetables.

Attending the school site for face-to-face teaching is optional and **students will arrive at 12:50 and leave at 15:50**. Students will be allocated a set group that they will remain in for all three lessons during the afternoon. Students will have a designated classroom and the teachers will rotate into the room for their lesson. Students will have allocated entry and exit points from the school site and allocated toilets. All of this will be in place together with social distancing and deep cleaning to ensure we minimize the risk to any staff member student or your family.

### Year 10 Boarding Students

Boarding students who wish to attend the onsite lessons may return to boarding at 6pm on the evening before their onsite learning takes place and will be required to leave the boarding provision by 6pm on the day of their onsite lessons.

We are not fully opening Boarding at this time, as we need to ensure the safety and well-being of all students. The boarders who will return will be expected to socially distance and will be allocated an individual dorm and a set bathroom. This is to ensure we do not increase the risk to the students or staff of contracting Corona virus.

Any student who presents with Corona virus symptoms will need to be collected by an adult within 4 hours and will not be able to return to the Boarding House for 7 days.

Any overseas student who wishes to return will need to complete a 14 day quarantine at the point they return to the UK. At this time, we are unable to facilitate this, however should quarantine rules remain in place in September you have our commitment and assurance that we will facilitate and accommodate this at this point.

### **Year 12 Phase 3B Provision**

The Phase 3B provision is an extension of Phase 3, students online learning via TEAMS, independent learning sessions and TEAM drop in session will all remain in place. Year 12 students will be invited to book a 1:1 tutoring session with each of their subject teachers and/or form tutor for a 1:1 tutorial once a fortnight on a Monday or Friday. This approach is being used to personalise the face to face contact with teachers for Year 12 to align support to their individual needs. If a student is unable to access the school site they can have this session via TEAMS.

Year 12 will be required to enter the site at set points only for their tutorial sessions and leave immediately afterwards. There will be set waiting areas for Year 12 that will be complying with social distancing.

### **Year 12 Boarding students**

Boarding students who wish to attend the onsite lessons may return to boarding at 6pm on the evening before their onsite learning takes place and will be required to leave the boarding provision by 6pm on the day of their onsite lessons.

We are not fully opening Boarding as we need to ensure the safety and well being of all students. The Boarders who will return will be expected to socially distance and will be allocated an individual dorm and a set bathroom. This is to ensure we do not increase the risk to the students or staff of contracting Corona virus.

Any student who presents with Corona virus symptoms will need to be collected by an adult within 4 hours and will not be able to return to the Boarding house for 7 days.

Any overseas student who wishes to return will need to complete a 14 day quarantine at the point they return to the UK. At this time, we are unable to facilitate this, however should quarantine rules remain in place in September you have our commitment and assurance that we will facilitate and accommodate this at this point.

## **Notifying us**

To help us in planning please can I ask that you notify Mrs McComish by 5pm Wednesday 10 June of the following:-

1. Name of student
2. Year Group
3. If they will or will not be attending onsite lessons / tutorials

If they are wishing to attend, please also notify us of the following :-

1. If they will need a place in boarding to allow them to access the site lessons / tutorials
2. How they will be travelling to school (walk, car, school bus)

## **Parents visiting the site**

Please can I ask that you do not enter the site without a prior appointment at this time, again to enable us to protect all members of our community.

I hope that you understand that we are very limited to the amount of onsite face to face contact we are able to offer at this time due to:

- Government Policy
- Ensuring we can keep students separated and support social distancing
- Not wanting to place any staff, student or family member at risk
- No more than 25% of the cohort being allowed on the site at any one time
- Ensuring we provide appropriate education for Years 7,8 and 9 who cannot access the school site
- Ensuring we provide appropriate education for Year 10's and 12's onsite and at home

For those Parents who respond asking for their son or daughter to attend Phase 3B provision onsite I will send a further letter with the details around the health and safety arrangements in place and the drop off and collection arrangements.

At this point I am unclear when the Government will allow us to increase our offer and move from Phase 3B into Phase 4, but please can I assure you that we will continually review what we are doing, and as things become clearer about the future we will update you.

We are already making plans for what school life will look like for your sons and daughters in September and beyond. We as always will ensure we are mindful of Government Policy, whilst

ensuring our number one priority is the safety and well-being of all members of our school community.

Wishing you and your families good health at this difficult time.

Kind regards

Helen

**Mrs H Cullen**  
**Headteacher**