



The Winstanley School

Widening Horizons | Enabling Excellence



13th May 2020

Dear Parents

You will be aware that there have been a number of announcements about schools in the last few days and the possibility of some form of reopening. I wanted to write to you today to reassure you that we are working hard on planning for the different possibilities that might be in place from the 1st June, and for the remainder of the school year. There is still great uncertainty around what will actually happen, not least, because the 'five tests' that the government has determined, have to be met, in order for any limited reopening of schools. This means for example, that infection rates still have to be falling. If this is not the case school reopening will be delayed. Please be aware that we find out information from the government at the same time you do.

At The Winstanley School, we have been desperately sad not to be able to welcome your children into school over the last few weeks and we are very aware of how they are missing school. We want to get them back to some schooling as soon as we can. However, we can only do this when it is as safe as it can be for them, our staff, you and the family members in your home.

The government has made it clear that it wants secondary schools to ensure that year 10 attend school for some face to face contact from 1st June. This is because they have exams next year and the government wants to prevent them from getting behind in their studies. However it must be made clear that this will not be returning to school for full school days and weeks. It is likely that years 7-9 will not return to school until the new academic year in August, although this may change.

We are working on a variety of plans that reduce the risk of transmission of the virus when Year 10 return. These plans will mean:

- reduced class sizes to lower the chance of transmission
- significant changes to the structure of the school day
- changes to how we will provide school lunch
- changes to the start and finish times of the school day
- the days your child will attend and days they will continue with remote learning

When we know the answers to critical questions around social distancing requirements and safety of the students and staff, we will be able to explain what we will be offering in June. We are however, reliant on the central government and the Local Authority to provide these answers.

For now though, it is worth recognising that the vast majority of learning, for the remainder of the school year, will still be remote learning online at home. We are very aware of how difficult this is, and we want to support you in every way we can. If there is anything we can do to assist you, please do not hesitate to contact us via email: central-admin@winstanleyschool.org.uk or phoning the office between 8.30 and 3.00.

I will write to Year 10 parents no later than 22nd May to give you more detailed information about how the students' timetable will work. If you have any questions or concerns please do contact me at the school during office hours.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Bennett

Head of School