



22 May 2020

Dear Families,

We hope that you are safe and well.

We remain grateful for your positive feedback as we do our best to support children's learning at home. Those of us with school-aged children understand clearly the very real challenges that families are facing. Trying to balance the demands of life under lockdown with work *and* home-education is not easy. We all want to see our children back in school – as soon as it is safe for them to do so.

What makes a return to school possible?

You will be aware of the Prime Minister's briefing on Sunday 10 May regarding the next steps of the national response to the coronavirus. The Department for Education published guidance to schools on Monday 11 May outlining a possible and phased re-opening of schools from 1 June *at the earliest*.

The Senior Leadership Team are making plans for the re-opening of our school. Any possible return to school will be limited by the Government's '5 key tests': **there can be no return to school until those tests are met**. Much then remains to be done before any re-opening of schools can be confirmed. Similarly, we will plan according to our own key belief informed by the concerns of and comments from staff, families and students: we must safeguard the health and wellbeing of our school communities as a priority. This is clearly important for all but is especially true for those groups within our wider school community who have been hardest hit by the virus.

The existing support for the children of key workers and other prioritised families will continue as at present. Online learning for students who are not in school will also continue. No decision has yet been made about provision beyond the end of the summer term on 20 July 2020.

What have schools been asked to do?

From 1 June, secondary schools have been asked to prepare for some 'face-to-face time' with Year 10 students.

The Government guidance confirmed that **KS3 students will not be returning to school until September** at the earliest, meaning that children in Years 7-9 will need to continue to engage with their online lessons. You will understand that a return to a 'normal' school timetable at this stage will not be possible.

Trulock Rd, London N17 0PG | Principal: Ms M Duncan M.Ed | T: 0208 801 0091 | F: 0208 801 9022 | E: admin@dukesacademy.org.uk | www.dukesacademy.org.uk



Plans for summer half-term 2 – 1st June - 20 July 2020

Years 7, 8 and 9

Students in these year groups will continue with their online learning. If your child cannot access online learning due to a lack of IT access, you should have informed the school.

Year 10

Students in Year 10 will continue online learning.

Week commencing June 8

One of the things that we will be interested to know is whether you would wish your child to return to school at this stage if it is possible to do so. We are aware that some parents have already informed us of their decision. We appreciate that some families may decide to keep their children at home for the time being.

The school is planning to offer for the students whose parents have indicated they will return to school, **if the school can ensure a safe learning environment**, on-site access to computers to access their online learning.

Every Year 10 student will also have a face-to-face tutorial with each of their subject teachers.

Please note these plans will be confirmed for Year 10 during the week commencing 1 June, once the risk assessments for site safety have been completed and signed off by Aldridge Education Trust.

We remain incredibly grateful to the wider school team, both teaching and support staff, who have done their very best to support learning during this most challenging time. All have played a part – including our premises, catering and cleaning teams – in trying to make this time as positive as it can be for your children. We are especially grateful to those members of staff who continue to support the children at our on-site provision for key workers and vulnerable children.

With very best wishes.

Yours sincerely



Monica Duncan

Principal

Duke's Aldridge Academy

for and on behalf of Aldridge Education Multi-Academy Trust