



Friday 5th June 2020

Dear Families

Partial Reopening of Duke's Aldridge Academy from 15th June 2020

You will have seen in the news that schools may partially reopen from 15th June for Year 10 only. Initially, Duke's will reopen to Year 10 students who do not have IT access at home; these students will be able to use the school computers to access the online teaching already taking place.

Please note that this offer may have to be withdrawn if at any time it cannot be considered reasonably safe to provide it, or if Government guidance for schools changes.

We will also look to arrange virtual face-to-face sessions for all Year 10 students with their teachers to support their home learning.

For those students returning to school, we will be operating a sealed system of very small numbers of students called 'bubbles' in line with Government guidance.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/closure-of-educational-settings-information-for-parents-and-carers/reopening-schools-and-other-educational-settings-from-1-june>

There are currently no plans to open the school to other year groups prior to September. These year groups will continue with their current learning arrangements.

It has been a very unsettling time for us all, but rest assured that we are doing everything we can to make sure we are ready to receive invited Year 10 students back into the school in a safe and cautious manner. The safety of students and staff remain central to our plans.

We are currently working with Aldridge Education Trust and our staff team to develop an action plan that we'll share with you as soon as possible so you know what the school's reopening will look like in practice.

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Precautions we currently have in place include but are not limited to:

- Limiting class sizes to no more than 10 students per teaching 'bubble'.
- Keeping to social distancing rules for all students and staff; classrooms have been marked out to ensure that students and staff stay 2 metres apart.
- Break times will take place in the 'bubble' classroom; students are to leave site at 1pm and have lunch at home.
- Different registration areas for each allocated 'bubble.'
- Increased cleaning; students will leave site at 1pm each day to allow for thorough cleaning of all areas being used. Contact area cleaning will also take place regularly throughout the day.
- No cross socialisation between small group 'bubbles.'
- We are working with other local schools to minimise travel by public transport at peak times. Our opening times will reflect this.
- Specific toilet facilities/ handwashing for each allocated group on site.
- Temperature checks for students and staff who appear unwell whilst at school.
- Keeping students and staff with coronavirus symptoms at home
- Parents/carers will not be allowed on the school site.

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.

We want to reassure you that we're not going to be pressuring any student to come into school. If your daughter or son does not come into school, though, it is important that they continue with their learning from the home timetable that is posted on our website.

During this period, attendance at lessons will continue to be followed up in the usual manner. We'll keep you updated with all our preparations for making sure the school is as safe as possible.

In the meantime, the school is still open **only** for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers. **The site remains closed to the public, families and other students.** We know some employers will be encouraging you to return to work, but

we're not in a position at present to extend places to other students until we receive further Government guidance.

Please click on/copy and paste the following link into your browser to complete the questionnaire form and return to us by **Wednesday 10th June**.

<https://forms.gle/VH9GhoViTrpPfXdc9>

We will continue communicating with you as required and please do continue contacting us if we can help in any way.

Wishing you safety and good health at this time.



M Duncan
Principal