



## Duke's Secondary School

Josephine Butler Campus, Academy Road  
Ashington, Northumberland NE63 9FZ  
Telephone: 01670 816111 [admin.dss@dukes.ncea.org.uk](mailto:admin.dss@dukes.ncea.org.uk)

Principal: Mr R Atkinson

Dear Parents/Carers

### Year 10 & Year 12 students

I hope that everyone is staying safe and managing to cope with the current situation as well as can be expected. As you may well know the Government has targeted the 15<sup>th</sup> of June as the date that schools can offer students the opportunity to have some face-to-face meetings with their teachers. We have been limited in what we can offer by the stipulation that we can have a maximum of 25% of any year group in the building on any given day. We have therefore spent a lot of time over the last week looking at what we can offer our students, ensuring most importantly, that we are maintaining a safe environment for our students and staff. After careful consideration of all variables, we have put together the following proposal:

#### Year 10 students

- Students will be set essential work based on what they need to know for the start of year 11 in their core subjects; they will need to have attempted at least some of this work prior to the meeting with a teacher, and should come with questions based on the work set.
- We will then offer three 20 minute 1 to 1 mentoring sessions for every student in each of the three core subjects; maths, English and Science, so a total of 3 possible subject meetings for every students. Alongside the subject meetings, all students will be offered a pastoral/well-being meeting with a head of year. All meetings will be offered to students, either in school or via a virtual meeting.
- We will only allow a maximum of three students in the building at any one time and strict guidance will need to be followed by students from the moment they set foot on the school grounds
- Each subject will have a specific day of the week. English will be on Mondays, maths Tuesdays, and Science on Wednesdays. We will operate a booking system, which will be via a google form from next week. Parents will be able to select the day they want their child to attend, and we will then allocate the time and communicate this prior to the day of the meeting.
- Pastoral/well-being meetings will be held

#### Year 12 students

- The core subjects of English, maths and science can fit any face to face meetings with y12 students into their allotted days if they wish
- Other subject areas will have the opportunity to hold face to face meetings with their students on a Thursday or a Friday if they so wish

I imagine that there are some questions that you may wish to ask based on our strategy. I have therefore pre-empted this by compiling what I imagine will be some FAQ's along with the answers to these questions.

**Q: Why are we not offering whole class teaching?**

A: The Government has stipulated that students should be offered face-to-face meetings, ensuring that only 25% of the year group should be on site on any given day. The Government are concerned about groups of students gathering outside of school, hence increasing the risk of infection. The UK is the second worst hit country in the world by Covid-19, with the North East being the region with the highest R-value in the country. We therefore feel that the potential risks to our students, staff local community are too great to offer whole group teaching. We have weighed up the potential benefits against the potential risks and feel our strategy is the most sensible for our school.

**Q: Will there be a full risk assessment in place?**

A: Yes, there is a comprehensive trust wide risk assessment that has been approved by Governors, which covers all aspects of re-opening to these 2 year groups.

**Q: Where will the sessions be held?**

A: The sessions will all be held in the main atrium, with tables and chair set at a safe distance apart from one another. This is also to minimise movement around the school and therefore reduce the possibility of infection.

**Q: How will students enter and leave the building**

A: Three students at a time will be invited into the school in 30-minute slots. They will be asked to wait outside at a distance of 2m apart until invited in. Students will be asked to wash hands before entering the building. They will then leave via the same route.

**Q: Will tables and chairs be cleaned in between student visits?**

A: Yes. There will be no need for students to touch anything other than the table and chair that they will be sitting at during the meeting. These will then be cleaned thoroughly after each student leaves.

**Q: Will students need to wear uniform?**

A: No, students will not be required to wear their uniforms when they visit school.

**Q: When will the virtual meetings be offered?**

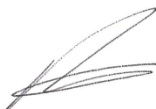
A: These will be offered on a Thursday and Friday for students that do not want to come into school.

**Q: When will the pastoral/well-being meetings be offered?**

A: These will be offered on the same days as the subject specific days, and can be booked via the google form in the same way as the subject meetings

I hope that this answers some potential questions that you may have about the strategy that we have put together. We have considered the best way forward with this, and hope you appreciate that safety comes above everything else. We have to find the right balance between safety, and what is best for our students in an academic sense and hope that you are happy with the provision that we are offering.

Kind regards



Mr Atkinson  
Principal Director



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