

5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear parent/carer,

Following the government decision to ask schools to open to Y10 and Y12 students from 15 June, I would like to outline our plan for this provision at Northallerton School & Sixth Form College.

Our priority continues to be the safety of all students and staff in our planning for this and to ensure our safety measures are in line with government guidance. Secondary schools have been asked to introduce some face-to-face contact to supplement students' remote learning from that date, provided there are no further changes or updates in government or public health policy. This will run alongside the current provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable students.

Please see below the ways in which we plan to increase provision and face-to-face contact for Y12 students.

### 1. Academic and wellbeing conversations: week beginning Monday 8 June

These conversations will be conducted by telephone at some point next week by Mrs Redpath and Mr Cadell. These telephone meetings will be used to book students onto the tutorials which begin during the week beginning Monday 15 June. The mental health and wellbeing of all of our students will also be a key focus during these conversations. Mrs Redpath and Mr Cadell will email both students and parents to provide a suggested time for these telephone conversations.

### 2. Subject Tutorials

These sessions, starting from Monday 15 June, will supplement the online work provided for Y12 with subject-specific support.

- Students will be invited in for a number of half-day sessions to work in a socially-distanced 'bubble'. There will be between one and two half-day sessions offered per subject between 15 June and the end of term.
- Each bubble will be staffed by a subject specialist
- For subjects that have large numbers of students, classes will be split to allow for social distancing
- The sessions are not about introducing new content - they are an opportunity to reflect on the work done during lockdown and to address gaps, misunderstandings and supplement online learning
- Subject specialists will lead a series of discussions, using some of this time to explain some of the more difficult aspects of the work set. They will also be able to respond to subject specific questions from students and provide advice on next steps.

The benefits of the learning bubbles are that they provide:

- a chance for students to begin reintegrating with a school environment and establish routines
- access to support from a subject specialist in a small group environment
- an opportunity for us - and the students - to identify any gaps in learning and plan for a more effective start in September



- teachers with the time to continue to prepare online resources as per Government guidance - “remote education will continue to be the predominant form of education delivery” for Y12 beyond the learning bubbles (including those who choose not to come in yet) and for students in Y7-10

### How will we keep your son/daughter safe?

We have:

- completed a full risk assessment based upon a model provided by North Yorkshire County Council
- installed hand sanitiser stations at the entrance to the school, and will encourage a strict hand washing regime
- measured classrooms and ensured strict 2m social distancing can be observed
- put up posters reminding students of their responsibilities
- staggered arrival and exit times from site to minimise the numbers of students coming into contact with one another
- stocked up on PPE for any staff who may need to break social distancing, for instance in dealing with a first aid incident.

A separate letter to Y12 students will be issued next, setting out clearly the steps they must take to ensure the safety of other students and staff. Any deviation from these steps will be treated very seriously.

### What do you need to do next?

You will receive an email from the school giving the suggested time for the initial academic and wellbeing telephone conversation. If you are happy with the suggested time you do not need to do anything - if there is a problem then please reply to it. The telephone conversation will take place at some point next week and we will use the main home telephone number stored on our system for you - if you would like us to contact a different number then please reply to the email and make this clear.

We know many of you are happy with the provision your child has been receiving during lockdown and that you have concerns about their return to school. We understand this and have done as much as possible to make their return as safe as we can. But we can offer no guarantees. If you wish to keep your son/daughter at home for the remainder of this half term, we will not chase their attendance and will continue to provide online learning. We would, of course, love to see them this half term, but respect your decision on this matter as a parent or carer.

**Having said this, your son/daughter must stay at home in the following circumstances:**

- **If they are clinically extremely vulnerable, clinically vulnerable, or live with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable (definitions of these terms can be found on the gov.uk website)**
- **If they are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19**
- **If they are self-isolating because of household members with symptoms/confirmed cases, or due to a notification from NHS Test and Trace, or because the school has informed you of a confirmed case in their ‘bubble’.**



In addition to this letter, aligned to government guidance, you should expect to receive next week an Appendix to our current Behaviour Policy and Procedure that includes measures for abiding to social distancing expectations, a revised home/school contract, and a reflection task to prepare for the academic and wellbeing review meeting.

I am sure you're in agreement that this is not the return to school experience we would have wanted for our students, but we must adhere to government guidelines and ensure safety is the priority for our school community. It is important students understand that this is not going to be the social reunion they may have hoped for. They must have realistic expectations and a clear understanding of how they need to keep themselves and others safe. The purpose of this limited return is very clearly set out in Government guidance as an opportunity for students to access some *'face-to-face support to supplement the remote education, which should remain the predominant mode of education during this term'*.

We hope you continue to stay safe and well.

Yours sincerely

**Mrs V Rahn**  
Head of School