

Thursday 9th July 2020

Dear parents and carers

I hope that you and your families are keeping well and are managing to stay positive. Thank you for your ongoing support of Tretherras during the last challenging months: it has been very much appreciated.

As you can imagine, we are preparing for our September opening in line with the recently published DfE Guidance and we are making key decisions in order to welcome our children and staff back safely. Our challenge is to balance the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum with the measures we need to take to keep everyone safe and manage risk.

You will receive a letter from your son or daughter's Head of Year before the end of term outlining the specific plans for the relevant Year Group, as students from different year teams will have slightly different operational arrangements. In this letter, I will outline the approach we are taking in response to the DfE Guidance.

All students, in all year groups, will return to school full-time from the beginning of the autumn term. We will organise the school into year group zones to minimise the number of contacts that a member of staff and a student has during the school day to reduce the risk of transmission. Each Year Group, in our case 300 students, will form a 'bubble'. Unfortunately, we have not been given the option to operate a rota system to reduce the numbers of students in school.

We are also planning for the possibility of a local lockdown in Newquay and how we will ensure continuity of education if we have to move back to distance learning sometime in the future.

Health and safety

As a school, we must comply with health and safety law, which requires us to assess risks and put in place proportionate control measures. We have thoroughly reviewed our health and safety risk assessments and have drawn up plans for the autumn term which address the risks identified using a system of protective measures. These include:

- a requirement that people who are ill stay at home
- robust hand and respiratory hygiene
- enhanced cleaning arrangements
- active engagement with NHS Test and Trace
- formal consideration of how to reduce contacts and maximise distancing between those in school wherever possible and minimise potential for contamination so far as is reasonably practicable.

We are taking reasonable steps to protect our staff, students and others from COVID-19 within our school setting. To reduce contact as much as possible, we have considered:

- how we group children together
- how we can best avoid contact between groups in Year Group 'bubbles'
- where possible, arranging classrooms with forward-facing desks
- staff maintaining distance from students and other staff as much as possible.

Protective measures

We will minimise contact with individuals who are unwell:

- Any student or member of staff who have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or has someone in their household who does, must not attend school.
- Students, staff and other adults must not come into the school if they have coronavirus (COVID-19) symptoms, or have tested positive in the previous 7 days. We will ensure that anyone developing those symptoms during the school day is sent home.
- If anyone in the school becomes unwell with a new, continuous cough or a high temperature, or has a loss of, or change in, their normal sense of taste or smell (anosmia), they will be sent home and advised to follow the government's 'Stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus (COVID-19) infection', which sets out that they must self-isolate for at least 7 days and should arrange to have a test to see if they have COVID-19. Other members of their household (including any siblings) should self-isolate for 14 days from when the symptomatic person first had symptoms.
- If a child is awaiting collection, they will be moved, if possible, to a room where they can be isolated behind a closed door, depending on the age and needs of the child, with appropriate adult supervision if required. If it is not possible to isolate them, we will move them to an area which is at least 2 metres away from other people.
- PPE will be worn by staff caring for the child while they await collection if a distance of 2 metres cannot be maintained.

We will ensure that students and staff clean hands thoroughly and more often than usual:

We will ensure that students clean their hands regularly, including when they arrive at school, when they return from breaks, when they change rooms and before and after eating. Regular and thorough hand cleaning is going to be needed for the foreseeable future:

- In addition to sinks for hand washing, we have hand sanitiser 'stations' available across the school so that all pupils and staff can clean their hands regularly
- Supervision of hand sanitiser use will be given and students with additional needs will continue to be helped to clean their hands properly.
- We will build these routines into school culture, supported by behaviour expectations and help that ensure younger children, and those with complex needs, understand the need to follow them.

We will ensure good respiratory hygiene by promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach:

- The 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach continues to be very important, so we have ensured we have enough tissues and bins available to support students and staff to follow this routine. As with hand cleaning, we will ensure younger children and those with complex needs are helped to get this right, and all students understand that this is now part of how our school operates.
- Public Health England does not currently recommend the use of face coverings in schools: "They are not required in schools as pupils and staff are mixing in consistent groups, and because misuse may inadvertently increase the risk of transmission. There may also be negative effects on communication and thus education". If students wish to wear a face covering, then they should do so. Face coverings are required at all times on public transport for children, over the age of 11.

We have introduced enhanced cleaning, including cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach:

- We have put in place a cleaning schedule that ensures cleaning is enhanced and includes:
 - more frequent cleaning of rooms / shared areas that are used by different groups by cleaners on site during the day
 - frequently touched surfaces being cleaned more often than normal
- Toilets will be cleaned regularly and pupils will be encouraged to clean their hands thoroughly after using the toilet

We will minimise contact between individuals and maintain social distancing wherever possible:

We will do everything possible to minimise contacts and mixing while delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, by reducing the number of contacts between children and staff. We will keep Year groups separate (in 'bubbles') and aim to maintain distance between individuals. We have taken into consideration:

- our students' ability to socially distance
- the lay-out of our school
- the feasibility of keeping distinct groups separate while offering a broad curriculum
- the importance of teachers knowing their students and continuing to personalise learning for their progress.

Consistent groups reduce the risk of transmission by limiting the number of pupils and staff in contact with each other to only those within the group. In this large secondary school, the groups have to be the size of a year group to enable us to deliver the full range of curriculum subjects and for our students to receive specialist teaching. Year groups will be encouraged to keep their distance and we have taken steps to limit interaction, sharing of rooms and social spaces between groups as much as possible.

We will keep students in their class groups for the majority of classroom time, but also allow mixing into wider groups for specialist teaching and transport. Siblings may well be in different groups. The DfE Guidance says that endeavouring to keep year groups at least partially separate and minimising contacts between children will still offer public health benefits as it reduces the network of possible direct transmission. Although we have limited staff and student movement, in reality all teachers and other staff will operate across different classes and year groups in order to facilitate the delivery of the school timetable. Where staff need to move between classes and year groups, they will try and keep their distance from students and other staff as much as they can.

And finally...

This has necessarily been a long letter but I hope it gives you a flavour of the plans we are making in school to keep everyone safe. As I wrote earlier, you will shortly receive letters specific to your son or daughter's needs. Letters from individual Heads of Year will give precise instructions for students' arrival times at school, the entrances they will use, their Year bases, social spaces and the arrangements for break and lunchtimes. We will also provide protocols for school transport and arrival and departure from school, including drop off and collection.

Our students with SEND (whether with education, health and care plans or on SEN support) will also have specific help and preparation for the changes we are making and Miss Coombes will be in touch with you soon.

Although we will do our best to provide you with clarity, final confirmation from the government is not due until 11th August 2020, and, as you can see from what is happening in Leicester, nothing is certain in this uncertain world. We are prepared for our plans to change and be adapted as necessary and we will keep you fully informed.

I appreciate this is a challenging time for many of our students and their families, in lots of different ways. We have been supporting those who have needed us throughout this extraordinary summer term. If you find that your personal circumstances have changed and you need some support with uniform items, school bags, PE kit or equipment, please do not hesitate to get in touch, as we can help. Please contact the relevant Form Tutor or Head of Year if your son or daughter is feeling at all anxious about returning to school, so that we can do our best to support you.

At Tretherras, we are very much looking forward to September! Having Year 10 and 12 students in the building this last month, as well as our Hub and Nurture Hub, has made the school start to sparkle back in to life. Our staff are looking forward to reconnecting with our fantastic students and our recent Year 6 and Year 11 Transition Days have made us excited about working in partnership with you to provide a great education for your children next academic year.

With grateful thanks for your continued support.

Very best wishes,



MRS S FAIRBAIRN
Executive Headteacher

