



5th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer (cc. Y10 students),

As you know, the government has requested that secondary schools introduce some face-to-face contact to supplement students' remote learning from 15 June onwards. I wish to outline our plans which will commence for Y10 students from **Monday 22 June onwards** provided there are no further changes or updates in government or public health policy. Please note, starting from 22 June allows us to stagger the reintroduction of provision with Y12, who rejoin us on 15 June, and ensure all our safety measures are working well before higher numbers of students enter the building.

Following the parent survey conducted recently, we have decided to avoid utilising school buses for the remainder of this term where possible. This will minimise the risk of transmission. **If your son/daughter cannot come to school without the school bus, you should note this when you book a place. We will liaise with you and NYCC passenger transport to ensure this is arranged, but your son/daughter will need to stay with us all day and join our key worker/vulnerable groups when the Y10 learning pods described below are not running.**

Here are the two key ways in which we plan to increase provision and face-to-face contact for our Y10 students this term:

1. Learning Pods

Students in Y10 are invited to come into school for **one half-day (two hours) session every other day** until the summer holidays to work in our socially distant small 'learning pods'. (Sessions are one half day every other day to allow us to split the year group into four as recommended by the government). So, if a student begins their first half-day on Monday 22 June, they will come in:

- Monday, Wednesday and Friday in week 1,
- Tuesday and Thursday in week 2;
- Monday, Wednesday and Friday in week 3,
- Tuesday and Thursday in week 4. (The end of week 4 is the start of the summer holidays.)

Students beginning the first half-day on Tuesday 23 June, will follow the opposite rota to the example above. Other than following guidance, the other main reason we have opted for half days is an academic one: we wish to enable the students to safely see as many different subject specialists in the time available before the summer break.

Learning pods will be based in computer rooms to allow students access to their Google classrooms. They will be staffed by a subject specialist on rotation e.g. for the first two days it may be English, followed by maths, science and so on, to ensure students have a mix of subject specialists in support. During the two hour session, students will take part in a recall





session to test the learning they have done so far and identify any gaps. Following this, there will be a question and answer session led by the teacher to explore any other academic issues the students may have. Finally, students will access their Google classroom work with support on-hand from the teacher should they need it.

The benefits of the learning pods are that they provide:

- a chance for students to begin reintegrating with a school environment and, for some, establish routines;
- a qualified teacher and subject specialist to support 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;
- a chance to interact with teachers in a more personal way than remote learning allows;
- time for teachers to still deliver meaningful online learning beyond the pods for the vast majority of students who will not be returning at all until September.

Pods will be assembled, as far as is possible, to suit students' subject choices.

2. Academic Reviews in Place of Parents' Evening

As you know, parents' evening for Y10 was cancelled at the start of the COVID-19 crisis. Mrs Darbyshire will be contacting you separately next week about our plans in lieu of this important event. One of the key aspects of this, other than a report we will send home, will be the opportunity for students to have a face-to-face meeting with their tutor (online or, potentially, in person) to review their learning across all of their subjects and support them with next steps in preparation for September. If you have queries following the receipt of your son/daughter's report, you can contact the teacher directly via email, in the first instance, or support your son/daughter in preparing questions for his/her academic review.

How will we keep your son/daughter and staff safe in school?

We have carried out a range of tasks including:

- completed a full risk assessment based upon a model provided by North Yorkshire County Council which includes numerous risk-reducing measures;
- arranged to install hand sanitiser stations (alcohol-free) at the entrance to the school/key areas, and will encourage a strict hygiene regime;
- reviewed and increased our targeted cleaning plans;
- measured classrooms and ensured strict 2m social distancing can be observed;
- ensured students have a learning space that will not be used by others in between cleaning cycles;
- put up posters reminding students of their responsibilities, and marked external queuing areas;





- staggered arrival and exit times from site for different cohorts to minimise the numbers of students coming into contact with one another and developed one-way systems;
- stocked up on PPE for any staff who may need to break social distancing rules, for instance in dealing with a first aid incident;
- drafted a separate letter to Y10 students (which will be copied to you) setting out clearly the steps they must take to ensure the safety of other students and staff. Any deviance from this will be treated very seriously.

What do you need to do next?

You must book your place for the Y10 provision by the end of **Tuesday 9 June** at the latest so we can finalise our plans. You should do this by emailing admin@stokesleyschool.org and stating:

- your son/daughter's name;
- that you wish to book a place in the learning pods;
- whether you have a preference for an am and pm session (we will try to accommodate this where we can, but cannot guarantee it due to social distancing and limits on numbers in classrooms). **Sessions will be 9.30-11.30am and 12.30-2.30pm** although we may stagger these times slightly depending on numbers.
- Whether you require North Yorkshire County Council school transport and therefore would like your son/daughter to attend all day on the days they are in school.

Students do not need to wear uniform when attending school this term.

We are aware that many of you are satisfied with the provision your son/daughter has been receiving during lockdown, and due to the varied advice from the government, SAGE, Independent SAGE and others, still lack confidence in sending your son/daughter back to school. We understand this. We are doing as much as possible to make a return to school as safe as we can, but cannot offer any guarantees. If you wish to continue keeping your son/daughter at home for the remainder of this half term, we will not chase his/her attendance and will continue to provide online learning to the best of our ability. We would, of course, love to see our students sooner rather than later, but completely respect your difficult decision on this matter as a parent or carer. **Having said this, your son/daughter must stay at home in the following circumstances:**

- **if he/she is clinically extremely vulnerable, or lives with someone who is clinically extremely vulnerable (definitions of these terms can be found on the gov.uk website);**
- **if he/she is displaying any symptoms of COVID-19;**
- **if he/she is self-isolating due to -**
 - **family members in his/her household with symptoms prior to testing/confirmed cases;**





- **notification from NHS Test and Trace; or**
- **the school informing you of a confirmed case in his/her school 'pod' or class group.**

Once you have booked your place and in advance of 22 June, we will contact you again with further information.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs H. L. Millett
Headteacher

